

## **George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library**

**PRESENT: Trustees** Kathi Patterson and Marie De Rusha **Librarian** Stephanie McAndrew **Citizens** Richard Scheuer, Heidi Jaarsma and Merilynn Bourne

1. Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. August and September minutes were approved.
3. Librarian's Report:

There were about 55 people in attendance at the History of Cornish Libraries presentation. Stephanie is working with the Friends of the Library and the Upper Valley Music Center to organize a barn dance in the future. The painting class went well and there are rock painting kits available to check out at the Library.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Checkbook balance as of 11/09/23 was \$9,391.55
- b. Tasker Grant balance as of 11/09/23 was \$275.03
- c. Donation account balance as of 11/09/23 was \$1,311.40
- d. Palmer Fund account as of 11/09/23 was \$1,006.84
- e. Non-Lapsing Unanticipated Funds balance as of 11/09/23 was \$2,892.98. This includes Tasker Grant monies.
- f. Building Funds account balance as of 11/09/23 was \$14,726.31

5. Old Business:

- a. Kathi gave a review for planning toward the transition. Her daughter, Kim Patterson, gave her collapsible crates that can be used for packing and moving books. When it is time for the move Kim will bring larger crates to be used for relocation of Library items.
- b. The CCI Committee update was emailed by Laura Cousineau as she was not in attendance and serves on the building committee along with Stephanie McAndrew. The email was read aloud by Kathi. For Laura's emailed report, please see attached file at the end of the minutes.

6. New Business:

- a. There were no new donations.
- b. Kathi filled out all the needed paperwork to sign up for the N.H. Public Investment Pool and will meet with Heidi to finish the process.

c. John Dryfhout made a donation to the Friends of the Library to put toward growth. The donation could be put toward professional development. Stephanie asked John directly what he would like it to be used for and John explained it was intended to be put toward whatever the Friends wanted to use it for. This was a donation to the Friends of the Library, not the George H. Stowell Free Library.

7. There was no other business to address.

8. Correspondence:

Nancy Newbold sent an email to Laura Cousineau regarding Laura's invitation to join one of her various committees. Nancy declined the invitation. Her full letter can be found in the binder at the George H. Stowell Free Library or in the included attachment and also attached at the end of the minutes.

9. Citizen Comments:

Heidi met with Andrew Cushing from the N.H. Preservation Alliance regarding buildings slated for the historic register. Five buildings were visited that day including the George H. Stowell Free Library. Andrew had visited and had a tour of the Stowell Library some time earlier in the year. Both Kathi and Stephanie do not remember this visit. Colleen O'Neill contacted him directly. Andrew toured the Library on his own and stated he feels all five buildings are eligible for funds to be put toward building restorations and repairs. He is willing to do the applications for all five buildings for free.

10. The next meeting date will be determined at a later time.

11. Kathi adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**Report on CCI Building Committee Progress  
To the George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting  
9 November 2023**

*Note: Trustee Laura Cousineau serves on the CCI Building Committee for the new library, along with Librarian Stephanie McAndrew.*

The Interior/Exterior Subcommittee met on Tuesday evening, November 7. That meeting included the architects from Banwell, along with the mechanical engineer, civil engineer, plumbing, electrical engineer, and a representative from Turnbull-Nelson. The engineers all gave reports based on their physical examinations of the building and grounds, determination of needs, compliance with all ordinances, and conversations with bodies such as the DOT.

The chair of the Building Committee summarizes the progress below:

- Design Phase will be completed this month.
- The plan from the design phase contains only slight refinements from the plan that Banwell developed at the start of 2023.
- In January, Trumbull-Nelson will provide the estimated cost of the more detailed version of the plan which includes input from the structural, mechanical, civil, plumbing, and electrical engineers.
- The construction documents will be developed during the first quarter of 2024.
- After these documents are completed, we will pause until most of the funds are raised. This will take a couple years. Colleen will be able to provide more specifics on this.
- After funds are raised, CCI will put the project out to bid.

After review by the architects, all plans will be submitted to Trumbull-Nelson, which will then begin its revision of the cost estimates. Those estimates, as stated above, are expected in January 2024.

*Respectfully submitted 8 November 2023  
Laura Cousineau, Trustee*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ann Nancy Newbold** <nandingieton@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 4:10 PM  
Subject: committee  
To: Laura Cousineau <lauracousineau@gmail.com>

Dear Laura,  
Please read the letter below at the next Trustee Meeting.

To the GH Stowell Library Trustees,

I am writing to let the Trustees know that I will not be accepting their invitation to join their committee. I love the Stowell building and still feel strongly that it should remain the town library. The purpose of your committee is to move the library to the general store. I cannot participate in a committee whose purpose is to permanently close the door on the Stowell as the library of our town.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Newbold