

**George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Draft Minutes**  
**October 25, 2025, 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library**

**PRESENT: Trustees:** Laura Cousineau, Kathi Patterson, Marie De Rusha **Interim Librarian:**  
Deanna Fitch

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:06.
2. The agenda was reviewed and approved.
3. There were no announcements.
4. The approval of September minutes as written was moved by Laura, seconded by Kathi and accepted unanimously.
5. Librarian's Report:  
See attached
6. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Building Fund balance as of 9/30/2025 is \$14,734.81
  - b. Checkbook balance as of 10/25/2025 is \$8,784.41
  - c. Donation Fund balance as of 9/30/2025 is \$1,617.45
  - d. Non-Lapsing Fund as of 9/30/2025 is \$2,067.99
  - e. Palmer Fund as of 9/30/2025 is \$1,007.42
7. There was no new correspondence.
8. There was no new business.
9. There were no citizens in attendance for comments.
10. Next meeting TBD

11. Moved to non-public session at 2:06 p.m. under NH RSA 91-A:3,11(b) The minutes from the non-public session were not sealed and will be available at the Stowell Library in the binder. Reconvened to public session at 2:27 and adjourned at that time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie De Rusha, Secretary

## Librarian Report: 10/25/25

It has been a busy, yet very productive, month and a half since our last meeting.

### Stats since 9/5/25 - 10/25/25

Patron Count: Adult **359**, Children **238** (9/7/25-10/25/25) **Total: 597**

Program Participants:169

(Adult Book Club October: 10, Teen Book Club: CES: 20x, 3x Adults, Homeschool: 2x, Story Time 42, Billy Sharff's Reading 22x, Matt Lewis' Comet Viewing Party 30x, Bookmark Contest: 40x)

### PREVIOUS: 1209 Checked Out Materials - 6/7/25 - 9/4/25

#### 803 Checked Out Materials - 9/5/25 - 10/24/25

- Audio Books 4
- Books 720
- DVD 5
- ILL 57
- Activity Bag 1
- Museum Pass 5
- Rotating Collection 7
- Telescope 1
- Library of Things 3

Museum Passes: Museum passes are a great benefit to patrons. Our most checked out item to date in our system is the VINS Pass with 58 checkouts, Billings Farm with 33 (Ranked 4th)

New Card Holders: *looking into this statistic*

New Newsletter Signups: 18x since 9/5/25

### Programming Updates:

Bookmark Contest: Winners have been selected - 2x from each age group. Winners will be announced in the November Newsletter.

Story Time: Started on September 18th. Each week, I held a different themed story time.

*Past Themes:*

Things with Wheels

Dinosaurs & Dragons

Colors & Leaves

Firetrucks & Team Work

Music & Movement

Rain & Rainbows

We will have our first guest Story Time Leader on November 13, Kaya M.

### Billy Sharff: Book Reading Event

Billy Sharff read his new picture book *Joan in the Cone* on September 24th. We had 22x people attend. He donated his newest released book, *Robot's First Snow*.

### Comet Viewing Party:

We had a successful Comet viewing party with Matt Lewis, 23 adults, and 7 kids. We used his telescope along with the library telescope and were able to see both Comets: *Swan* and *Lemmon*. We also saw a meteor, and Matt gave a wonderful presentation of various constellations, the Andromeda Galaxy, and various areas of the sky.

## Upcoming Events:

### Teen Book Club:

I am collaborating with School Librarian, Auroure Gretz, to Co-Lead two book clubs for 5-6 and 7-8 graders, as well as staff who would like to participate. This has been opened up to homeschool families and promoted at the library. Our first meeting is Tuesday, October 28th, at the school. We will meet every three weeks.

Cookbook Club: Collaboration with Plainfield and Marth Z. helped organize. Next will probably be held in the Spring. Date TBD.

Trick-or-Treat: We will be handing out candy and books on Friday during the town Trick-or-Treat event. Judith K. will be volunteering with other members of the community.

### Contra Dance

We are hosting a Family Contra Dance on November 16th from 3-5 pm at the Town Hall. We are in partnership with UVMC, via Erin Smith, Education Director. The Friends and CCI are collaborating on this with us and helping with food and drink. I received a \$50 donation from Hannaford to go toward drinks/food.

The security deposit of \$200 is due to Mary Curtis by October 31st.

## Winter/Spring Events for 2026: Early Stages of Planning

- Game Nights - Adults & Kids
- Presentation - Talk on Creating and Designing a Card Game
- Information Session - [Ancestry.com](https://ancestry.com), How to use Libby, How to Access Catalog from Online
- Winter Lego Club - TBD
- Active Hope Book Club - February/March/April by Cindy Heath

## New Books:

I have purchased a wide variety of books lately to fill in gaps of popular series, added many new releases, and award-winning books. There has been a lot of positive feedback from patrons about the new available titles. They have been circulating well. I have also been buying books requested by patrons and older titles used from the Plainfield Booksale and Violet's.

## Projects:

- We have moved some items around to maximize space and create more appealing and accessible displays.
- Labeled YA books with extra spine labels so they are easily identified and won't be as easily mixed into the Js.
- Each librarian aide has their own stack location to go through during their shift. This idea was made so that all areas of the library will be checked for misplaced books, and no areas will be missed. Helps with accountability and communication, and reduces the chance of going over the same space by multiple people.
- Closing in on receiving back all the very old overdue books. We are still having issues with our overdue notices not going out to patrons. I am working with Bywatersolutions to fix these issues.

#### Email Update:

We switched over to the .gov account, and I am slowly converting accounts from the old email address over to the new address. This will be an ongoing task, but beneficial to the security of the library and a huge advantage to have this completed before moving to the new Library.

## **Librarian: Professional Development Opportunities & Request for Increase in Hours**

Virtual Conference: I have signed up to take part in three virtual conferences:

Stats to Crics: Librarian Tips for Leveraging Data to Better Serve Readers:

- Stats on what people are reading in North America
- Tips for purchasing on a limited budget
- Tools in Overdrive Marketplace for viewing your community reading habits
  - Recording available to watch later.

Beyond the Basics: Unlocking the Magic of Libby: Deep Dive into using Libby

November 13

- Recording available to watch later

CLIF: Children's Literacy Foundation, November 13, 9-12

- Whole Book Approach in 2025: 9-10 am
- Rural Library Youth Programming & Community Engagement 10:15-10:45

## **Request for Additional Hours:**

Request an additional 4 hours/week for the librarian position = 20 hrs total/week based upon all programming and additional library operations listed above, and to cover what will come with the transition to the new library.