

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Draft Minutes

April 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library

PRESENT: Trustees: Kathi Patterson, Laura Cousineau, Marie De Rusha

Librarian: Deanna Fitch

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Agenda was reviewed with no additions or changes.

3. The January minutes were approved as written.

4. Librarian's Report:

Deanna separated the months of January, February and March to show the breakdown of numbers. She has been working on increasing programming. She attended the Cliff conference in Lebanon and was able to do some networking. She took some workshops related to younger patrons.

See attached for full report.

5. Treasurer's Report:

a. Building Fund balance as of 4/4/2026 is \$14,737.02

b. Checkbook balance as of 4/4/2026 is \$15,172.59

c. Donation Fund balance as of 4/4/2026 is \$1,677.69

d. Non-Lapsing Fund as of 4/4/2026 is \$1,105.27

e. Palmer-Norell Fund as of 4/4/2026 is \$1,007.57

Donations- \$10 (Bourne)

Non-Lapsing- none

For operating budget, see attached.

6. Correspondence:

Marie had received two questions which was discussed under CCI reports.

7. Old Business:

a. There had been discussion regarding the increasing cost of the Consolidated bill in the December meeting. Richard Scheuer offered to research a more affordable alternative. It was decided through discussion during the meeting that staff was responsible for finding alternatives. Deanna expressed concern for the main line in the Library as it is not always easy to hear or understand what is being said to and by callers. Deanna will troubleshoot current

connection problems with the Library's phone as this has been an ongoing issue. Laura will ask the CCI building committee what they think should happen in terms of phones at the new location.

b. Other:

None

c. CCI Reports:

i. Questions received and answered: Marie had received two questions, one on March 27th and one on March 29th. Both questions were sent to Keith Mullane for answers. The question asked on March 27th was whether or not there were any local tradespeople or contractors working on the project or are expected to work there. Laura stated that Colleen and Kieth had contacted her regarding the questions and the CCI plans to quote the warrant article which has the answer to the second question. She stated in regard to the first question an employee of Trumbull Nelson currently working on the project lives in town, that offers to bid on the project had been sent out to local contractors and no responses were received. The question from March 29 was regarding who is involved with accepting the building once it's completed and to be turned over to the town. Laura made the motion that any questions related to the renovation and construction of the new building be forwarded to Keith Mullane with the Trusteed cc'd, including a note to the sender stating the answer would be addressed by the CCI. Any questions relevant to the Stowell Library can be sent to any Trustee, the Librarian or to library.trustee@cornish.nh.gov. Marie seconded and the vote passed in the affirmative. As off April 7th there had been no answers provided to either question forwarded to Keith Mullane.

ii. The Library Trustees were invited to tour the new building. The date has yet to be set.

8. New Business:

a. Policy for Questions regarding the new building was covered in the CCI reports.

b. NHLTA Conference will be attended by Laura Cousineau. Marie and Kathi will not be attending this year.

c. Other: Laura had contacted Fedco seeds for the seed swap. Seeds are available at the Stowell Library in the old card catalog drawers. Fedco sent an assortment of seeds and expressed they would like to have pictures of what was done with them. Deanna mentioned the possibility of a community garden. Deciding on a site was introduced.

9. There were no citizen comments.

10. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Stowell Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie De Rusha, Secretary

Librarian Report: 4/4/2026

CHECKED OUT MATERIALS:

2026 Count	Audio Book	Book	DVD	ILLs	Activity Backpack	Museum Pass	Rotating Collection Item	Telescope	Library of Things	TOTAL
January	5	329	12	32	0	0	4	0	1	383
February	0	348	1	34	0	2	6	0	1	392
March	2	400	2	38	0	2	5	1	1	451

Participation (total in bold)

592x adults: *Jan. 183, Feb. 175, Mar. 234*

343x children: *Jan. 85, Feb. 81, Mar. 177*

2x curbside

41x wifi

9x computer

Program Participants:

Jan, Feb, Mar 2026: 310x participants for three months.

Programming included:

- Adult book club, cookbook club, and ENVIRO Club
- 4th grade book club, Warriors Cat Club for Kids, Story time
- Canvas Mini Art Show, Lego Build Challenge, Monthly Craft nights, Game Day Family Charades, Schrimshander Game Night Presentation and Play
- **Currently for April:** Maple Syrup Showcase, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) Training, Craft Night (up-cycle centerpieces)
- **Upcoming in May:** Share a Short Story/Poetry (1 page), Cookbook Club, Craft Night (painted rocks)

Love local creativity? Join us each month at the library to create, showcase, and celebrate talents in our Community Creative Showcases—inspired by the Cornish Fair.

CLif Conference:

Took workshops on 0-5 age groups to build up our story time to incorporate music and the importance of early literacy.

Ordered Free Books *Energy Detectives*: for all students to take home (K-5). Teacher lesson plans are also available if they want to incorporate it into their lessons.

Applying for Tasker Bridge Grant: Musical Instruments

In the process of applying for a grant to add versatile and adaptable musical instruments to our

Library of Things and programming for youth and all ages. These instruments are easy for young learners, families, and community members of all skill levels to use and explore music. This has been a brainstorming effort with the Friends.

Summer Reading Programming: (Planning in progress) *Theme: Plant a Seed, Read.*

New Library: Working with the CCI on making interior design decisions and putting together lists of items we need for the new space.

Accounts	Budgeted 2026	Spent To Date	Balance In the Account
Advertising	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Electricity	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 245.32	\$ 954.68
Heat	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 1,373.08	\$ 1,376.92
Library Materials	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 381.83	\$ 4,618.17
Library Training	\$ 600.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00
Maintenance	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Postage	\$ 230.00	\$ -	\$ 230.00
Programming	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 22.66	\$ 977.34
Salaries	\$ 34,645.00	\$ -	\$ 34,645.00
Supplies	\$ 600.00	\$ 66.94	\$ 533.06
Technology	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Telephone	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 296.01	\$ 1,003.99
Trustee Expenses	\$ 105.00	\$ -	\$ 105.00
	\$ 52,080.00	\$ 2,460.84	
as of 04/06/2026	DEPOSITS:	\$17,633.43	
	EXPENDED:	\$ 2,460.84	
	BALANCE:	\$15,172.59	
Salary Figures:	2026	2026	
Librarian:	20 hrs @\$21.00	\$21,840.00	
Aides:	12 hrs @\$15.30	\$9,547.20	
Janitor:	1 hr @\$15.30	\$795.60	
Social security is figured at 6.2%.		\$1,995.33	
Medicare is figured at 1.45%.		\$466.65	
		\$34,644.78	