

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Draft Minutes

June 13, 2026, 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library

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

Librarian: Deanna Fitch

Citizens: Martha Zoerheide, Trish Oliver, Judith Kaufman

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:02

2. The agenda was reviewed and no alterations made.

3. Laura presented her Brainstorming Activity along with handouts which described how the activity would work and limited discussion to one hour. The activity was to come up with what needed to be addressed in order for the move to happen. Trish Oliver volunteered to catalog the ideas on the flipchart Laura provided. Once ideas were given there was a total of 27. Each item was sorted into categories for “move”, “pre-move” and “committee”. Committees will be set up where needed to ease the transition from one building to the other and to address things such as the historical collection currently held in the basement of the Stowell building. There was much discussion and good input along with excellent points that will need to be considered. Tasks will need to be divvied up and some may require a committee. A time-line needs to be established for prioritizing tasks. Trish asked what will staff be responsible for, what tasks will they be requested to do and can staff volunteer. Her questions will be part of discussion of the pre-move committee once it is set up. Laura will take home the flipchart and organize the categories to send out for easy reference. The cost of moving was a recurring topic. Kathi stated she felt the Stowell had the funds for the move with what is left in the building fund account but questioned whether or not it could be used as part is a donation from the Meyeette Trust. Laura stated the issue was done and found in favor for the Stowell Trustees so the funds can be used toward the move. Laura and Deanna requested from the CCI and the architect a new drawing of the interior to help with the layout of the collection, materials, Library of Things etc. By-laws and Policies will need to be reviewed, rewritten and/or established where applicable. True to form, the discussion did not go over the hour allotted.

4. Laura moved, Kathi seconded and the April minutes were approved as written.

5. Librarian’s Report:

See attached

6. Treasurer's Report:

After Kathi gave her report she included a deposit of \$58.56 which is not reflected in the report as it came in after the end of May. That sum came from the Cornish school for lost books. Laura stated conversation had come up at a CCI meeting that there are more funds held somewhere but no one was clear as to where or how. Kathi explained the Cornish Trustees of Trust Funds hold the money given in George Stowell's will with a principal of \$10,000. The library is allowed to use the interest from that fund. Laura was curious that with a cy pres, what happened with those funds, and can it be moved to go to the new building. Kathi stated the money does not belong to the Library Trustees, that the Trustees of Trust Funds manage it. She stated that it's the town's money and they manage it and the money is specifically for management and repairs for the Stowell Building, it cannot be brought to the new building. Laura felt it should be included as part of the cy pres. Laura mentioned the \$20,000 that was given to the new building through the Schuelle Trust can be used to aid in the move as the building will be completed at that point. Laura requests that in future Treasurer reports, that donation be noted to acknowledge its existence. Kathi questioned what constituted the building to be "complete". Would it need to be furnished in order to be considered so? See attached for Treasurer's report.

7. The progress report from the CCI was handed out to everyone and read. Marie had questions regarding their report including lack of response to questions from tax payers that were given to the CCI on April 16 when the Trustees toured the new building. She also questioned the lack of receipt of the reports referred to. She felt everyone should have access to the full reports in order to be above board and the Trustees doing their due diligence for the town. Marie would like to request all inspection, architect, engineer and third-party reports to be shared with the Trustees as well as the BOS. Laura will email Keith Mullane to request copies of them. Laura stated that in an earlier meeting it was decided that questions for the CCI should be sent by the person asking not through a Trustee. Marie agreed that was the decision but felt that tax payers will be supporting the project in the future, therefore tax payers deserved to be answered. She also stated that any further questions received and requested to pass along since the tour she has referred the asker to the CCI website to pose their questions there. As these questions are covered by 91A law (Right To Know Law), please see attachment for the questions and the attachment for the CCI report presented at the meeting. Marie also asked about whether the kitchen needs to comply to commercial kitchen law as the public will be using it and it is a town owned building. She shared her curiosity as to the third-party inspector mentioned and also that there is no knowledge of a perimeter drain installed for the building. Laura requested Marie send these questions to Keith Mullane.

8. Laura reported on her conversation with David Kruidenier of the Cornish Historical Society (CHS) regarding CHS using the Stowell building. Prior to the meeting, Laura reviewed past documents related to the cy pres for the Stowell Library including the letter Michael Fuerst received from the New Hampshire Charitable Trust Unit (NHCTU). In the letter is stated if the town would donate the library building to CHS, the NHCTU would not object to said proposal but a petition for a cy pres would have to be moved on. Laura would like to follow up with NHCTU regarding those comments. Laura explained the decision for what happens with the building is between the Library Trustees and BOS. Laura made the motion the Trustees endorse conveyance of the Stowell building to CHS. The vote was called, 2 in the affirmative, 1 nay, the motion passed. Laura then made a second motion the Trustees form a committee with CHS to create a collection policy. The vote was called, 2 in the affirmative, 1 abstention. Please see attachment for full copies of Laura's motions.

9. There was no correspondence.

10. There was no other business, announcements or citizen comments.

12. Next meeting will be a work meeting on Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend but as this will be a work meeting, no comments will be taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:01

Respectfully submitted,
Marie De Rusha
Secretary

13 June 2026

Motion 1

The George H. Stowell Free Library Trustees (Trustees) endorse the conveyance of the Stowell Building to the Cornish Historical Society (CHS) under the provisions of a Cy Pres petition. Said Cy Pres petition shall ideally be requested jointly by the Trustees, the Select Board, and the CHS, with the consultation of appropriate counsel(s).

Motion 2

The George H. Stowell Free Library Trustees shall form a committee with the Cornish Historical Society (CHS) to create a collection policy. This policy will determine which materials would convey to the CHS and which would remain with the library. Where appropriate, specific items will be listed in the Cy Pres petition.

Librarian Report: 6/13/2026

CHECKED OUT MATERIALS:

2026 Count	Audio Book	Book	DVD	ILLs	Activity Backpack	Museum Pass	Rotating Collection Item	Telescope	Library of Things	TOTAL
April	0	388	13	22	0	1	4	0	3	431
May	5	358	4	38	0	1	3	0	1	410

Patron Log (total in bold)

352x adults: *April 189x, May 163x*

175x children: *April 101x, May 74x*

5x curbside

25x wifi

8x computer

Events & Programming Participants:

April 73x & May 98x - 2026: 171x participants

Programming included:

- Adult book club, Cookbook Club, 4th-grade book club, Story time
- Canvas Mini Art Show, Maple Syrup Showcase, Poetry & Short Story Showcase, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) Training, Craft Night Painted Rocks, Kindergarten Field Trip to the Flat.

Received Tasker Bridge Grant: Musical Instruments (\$1,757.47)

Receiving a grant for musical instruments. Instruments will provide access for young learners, families, and community members of all skill levels to use and explore music. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and Judith Kauffman for writing the grant.

Summer Reading Programming: *Theme: Plant a Seed, Read.*

Kick-off party is Monday, June 15, 4 pm.

We will serve ice cream, face painting for kids, and hand out Summer Reading Passports, Log Sheets for Adults, and summer tween and teen book club information. Raffle prizes will be announced, August 15th at our end of summer reading celebration.

Child Cards: Encouraging the use of Child Patron Cards. Help kids build a sense of responsibility, pride and independence.

New Park Pass: (NH State Park Pass). Purchased by the Friends of the Library. Should have this available beginning in July.

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

Treasurer's Report (06-13-26)

- a. Building Fund balance as of 06-13-26 is \$14,737.73
- b. Checkbook balance as of 06-13-26 is \$13,758.13
- c. Donation Fund balance as of 06-13-26 is 1,687.77
- d. Non-Lapsing Fund as of 06-13-26 is \$1,133.91
- e. Palmer-Norell Fund as of 06-13-26 is \$1,007.61

Donations - none

Non-Lapsing - \$58.56 (Cornish School Lost Books)
\$15.00 (book replacement)

CORNISH LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE
FOR CORNISH LIBRARY TRUSTEES
6/12/2026

Recent progress on the building for the Cornish Library and Community Center includes:

- Structural Framing – Complete
- Interior Wall Framing – Complete
- New Roof framing and sheathing – Complete
- Plumbing Rough – Complete
 - New Hampshire Fire Marshal Inspection – Complete and Passed
- Electrical Rough – Complete
- Roofing – Starting 6/15/26
- Envelope Air Vapor Barrier and Insulation – Starting 6/15/26
- Subgrade (North and West property) – Complete
- Trenching and Conduit install for underground electrical service – Complete
- All windows and doors installed

The Cornish Select board visited the construction site on 6/11/2026. Construction Manager Ian Drennan pointed out new sheathing, increased structural work, electrical wiring, plumbing, ventilation systems for heat pumps, exterior patio space, location of roof solar arrays, and the new trenching for the upgraded electrical service (200 amps to 600 amps). The areas of mold remediation in the walls were visible. The completed asbestos abatement and encapsulation was reviewed. The future transfer of the real estate from the CCI to the town was discussed. The CCI has offered to share the current property deeds for review.

The Interior Furnishings Committee (Caroline Storrs, Laura Cousineau, Deanna Meadow and Susan Chandler), has been working on the plans for furniture, shelving, kitchen items and general interior equipment and fixtures.

Projects costs increased from the start of construction to the present from \$3.4M to \$3.75M. At this time, the fund raising continues. The CCI has received grants from the following public and private partners:

Mascoma Bank
Bar Harbor Bank and Trust
Claremont Savings Bank
Couch Family Foundation
Hyperthermia Hope Foundation
Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Osgood-Hilles Charitable Trust
Putnam Foundation
NH Charitable Foundation
White Mountains Insurance
LaValley Building Supply

Northern Border Regional Commission

There is a planned fund raising effort for the solar array for the project.

Several generous donors have made substantial gifts and will take advantage of naming opportunities for the Children's Room, Tech Area, Mezzanine, Special Collections area, Reception Desk, and Librarian's office.

The CCI recently posted to ConnectCornish a drone fly-through video, by William Daugherty of Plainfield, showing the interior rooms and areas. This is also on the CCI website.

We expect construction of the library to be completed on or before December 7, 2026. When the building is determined to be substantially complete by the select board, the property will transfer to the town. The moving of library collections will be determined by the trustees.

Landscaping will take place after the coming winter when the ground is suitable for new plantings.

We are excited to see the construction of this new town resource move along on schedule. It is a commercial project getting numerous inspections by the NH State Fire Marshall's office and a third party inspector. All code compliance and inspection reviews are documented and shared with the select board.

The CCI welcomes any comments and questions. Please reach out to any board member or send an email via our website. We are conducting monthly public tours on the last Thursday of the month at 3pm. We welcome the library trustees back to the job site at any time, especially when the sheet rock is up, to see the rooms taking shape.

We appreciate your support and the collaboration of the our partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen O'Neill, CCI Board Chair

Unanswered Tax Payer Questions from April 16, 2026 for the CCI

1. Is the over-framed roof sleeper resting on a standing seam metal roof? Are there other layers of roofing below? How can it be confirmed that roof sheathing below is not rotten, moldy, or otherwise compromised?
2. Did the mold remediation mentioned by the CCI conform to ANSI/IICRC S520 Standard for Professional Mold Remediation?
3. Was the remaining asbestos in the floor system noted by the CCI removed?
4. Who would be responsible for mold, sagging, or leaks on this roof?
5. Is the roof going to have more than two layers of roofing? Is the framing for the new roof framing constructed of two or more layers of roofing, sleepers, or rotten or moldy sheathing?
6. Based on observations from the road:
Is the CCI and Trumbal-Nelson taking shortcuts to save money?
If so, why and where?
7. Are the construction plans presented to the Trustees and BOS the same that the building is being remodeled from?
Explain the differences and why.