

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Draft Minutes

August 29, 2026, 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library

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

Librarian: Deanna Fitch

Citizens: Seldon Lord

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

3. The July meeting minutes were approved as written.

4. Librarian's Report:

See attachment

5. Treasurer's Report:

Kathi questioned where the Schulle fund was being kept. Marie stated she thought the Trustees of Trust Funds had it. Laura will contact Heather Meeks and ask for details of the donation. Kathi reminded Laura that the Library needs to reimburse her for paying our annual dues. Laura asked Kathi what was left in the George H. Stowell fund. Kathi explained the Trustees of Trust Funds hold it. Every year some comes back, usually the interest. Kathi stated that Heather Meeks told her the Trustees should use it now because you won't be able to use it after the end of this year. This year's audit passed.

See attachment for full Treasurer's report.

6. CCI Report and Interior/Exterior Report:

See attachment of the letter from Keith Mullane for the CCI report, which includes an offer to the Library Trustees to have another tour of the building.

Kathi read the questions Marie had brought to the Board of Selectmen that had gone unanswered by the CCI as well as the answers the BOS received at their tour. The questions that got answered are available on the town website under the Select Board for Thursday, June 11, 2026. Laura asked when we would like to have another tour of the building. It was decided she would email Keith Mullane with the dates of Thursday, September 17 or Friday, September 18. The interior/exterior committee are looking at furniture. The chairs under consideration have a 25-year guarantee, they aren't too low for people to comfortably access. Teak benches are being considered for the patio, rocking chairs for the porch and Adirondack chairs for outside. Office furniture is still being discussed. They have placed some of the Howe Library bookcases,

which once in, will make the physical move much easier. Laura asked the Cornish Garden Club to create and manage outside plantings, including a strip of garden in front of the building. They were interested in the offer and will discuss and decide at their next meeting. Kathi asked if snow removal had been taken under consideration regarding plantings. Laura stated it had been investigated and it would be fine. Seldon Lord asked if there has been any discussion regarding controlling the traffic on Route 120. Laura answered it has been discussed and investigated but she did not know what, if any decision was made. Kathi mentioned the crosswalk on Town House Road for the school, which was painted by a “volunteer” not by the state or the town. Seldon mentioned it wasn’t just about children crossing the road, that traffic flow was a consideration as well regarding entrance and exit from the parking lot in relation to Route 120.

7. Cy Pres Activities:

Laura presented a second draft of a cy pres petition written by Michael Fuerst.

The Cornish Historical Society (CHS) did not meet on their scheduled date so there was no vote regarding renting or purchasing the Stowell building. Laura believes a cy pres should happen sooner than later so the Trustees are not responsible for two buildings. She hopes when the Trustees present a cy pres petition to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) they can all agree and have a strong case for a cy pres to pass. It was agreed to have a third draft created to clean up language and other small errors. Marie asked again about how Michael Fuerst got a response from the NH Charitable Trust Unit (CTU) in 2023 when there was no record of him being asked to contact them, and what his original questions were. Kathi stated the request could be found in the exploratory committee minutes. Marie stated she has looked and has found nothing related to her questions. During the discussion, Laura wrote an email to Michael asking about his communication with the CTU, which she read and we agreed to send. Kathi stated whatever Marie was asking was answered in the response from the CTU. Marie restated that was not what she was asking. She stated that in her opinion the 91A (Right To Know) Laws have been being violated starting in 2022 through the present regarding the communication between CTU and Michael Fuerst. Laura opened discussion to bring the amended and completed 3rd draft petition to the BOS once CHS makes their decision for a cooperative agreement. Kathi and Marie agreed she should. Laura moved the Trustees give permission for her to bring the 3rd cy pres draft to the BOS for review with their attorney after 2 events:

1. A formal meeting and motion had been made by the Cornish Historical Society to take over the Stowell building.
2. The completion of the 3rd draft, which includes information from the CHS and corrected/missing information in the 2nd draft, has been presented.

Laura called the question and it was unanimous that once these conditions are met, she will present the draft petition to the BOS.

Kathi made the motion the Stowell Fund, which is used for maintenance and repairs, stays with the building. Marie seconded and the motion passed.

Seldon asked for clarification as to what a cy pres meant. All three Trustees had explanations to his satisfaction.

8. Progress Reports on Moving Tasks:

Marie asked Laura if she had looked into a waiver to use volunteers for the move as mentioned at the last meeting. Laura had not but included the question in her letter to Mike. Kathi stated she liked the idea of a professional company doing the physical move while volunteers would be used to pack and unpack the library's contents, especially as the move will happen in the winter months. Laura stated that December 7, 2026 still looks like the date planned to turn over the building to the Town. Laura noted there are issues with Liberty Utilities completing work on their end, holding up some of the work on the renovations.

9. There was no correspondence.

10. There were no other business or announcements.

11. Citizen Comments:

Seldon wanted to personally thank the Trustees to allow the public to have input and to have learned the process and detail we put into what we do, not only as Trustees but as individuals for the Town. He stated he believes the library is in good hands.

12. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Library.

13. Meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie De Rusha

Secretary

Librarian Report: 8/29/2026

CHECKED OUT MATERIALS:

2026 Count	Audio Book	Book	DVD	ILLs	Activity Backpack	Museum Pass	Rotating Collection Item	Telescope	Library of Things	TOTAL
June	1	397	3	21	1	3	4	0	5	435
July	4	338	6	21	0	2	4	0	1	376

Patron Log (*total in bold*)

Adults: **June 195x, July 173x**

Children: **June 123x, July 89x**

13x curbside

26x wifi

2x computer

Events & Programming Participants:

June – 172x

July – 115x

Programming in June and July included:

- Adult Book Club, Cookbook Club, Tween & Teen Book Club, Ancestry training.
- Summer Reading Kick-off Celebration, Story time, Leave a Favorite Recipe, Buddy Readers, Charades, DIY Flower Arrangements, Tea Tuesdays.
- Craft Night - Emotional Support Hen and Lavender Sachets.

Received Musical Instruments

We received the musical instruments and I will be working on entering them into the system for September. We will have a Musical Instrument Petting Zoo at the Library in early October to introduce the instruments to patrons and let them test them out.

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

Highlights: This year's summer reading was full of themed activities. Story Time kids grew peas from seeds and tended to tomato plants and were able to harvest 4x cherry tomatoes. We had 9x kids and 2x adult Buddy Story Time readers during story time. Peggy O. and Martha Z. put on a DIY Flower arranging workshop by the picnic tables at the Stowell. We had 20 participants of all ages. My favorite craft was making a Felt Support Hen, where we took felt sheets: cut, sewed and filled them with rice and filler. Summer Reading Raffle prizes were generously donated by: Artful Coffee Roasters, Edgewater Farm, Fanelli Amusements, Frazer's Place, and Violet's Book Exchange.

New Park Pass: (NH State Park Pass). NH State Park Passes are available and can be requested ahead of time, via email.

New Library: I have tagged most of the Stowell Furniture that is going, collected boxes, mapped the new space and determined placement of furniture.

Accounts	Budgeted 2026	Spent To Date	Balance In the Account
Advertising	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Electricity	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 595.79	\$ 604.21
Heat	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,286.29	\$ 463.71
Library Materials	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,575.06	\$ 2,424.94
Library Training	\$ 600.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00
Maintenance	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Postage	\$ 230.00	\$ -	\$ 230.00
Programming	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 95.53	\$ 904.47
Salaries	\$ 34,645.00	\$ -	\$ 34,645.00
Supplies	\$ 600.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 432.00
Technology	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Telephone	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 789.04	\$ 510.96
Trustee Expenses	\$ 105.00	\$ -	\$ 105.00
	\$ 52,080.00	\$ 6,584.71	
as of 08/29/2026	DEPOSITS:	\$18,433.37	
	EXPENDED:	\$ 6,584.71	
	BALANCE:	\$11,848.66	
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	

CCI Report to the Library Trustees

27 August 2026

For the August 29th trustee meeting

From Keith Mullane, CCI Building Committee Chair and CCI Board Member

Here is the latest from Ian:

Site Update (8/25/26):

- Interior and Exterior Framing: Complete
- Plumbing Rough: Complete
- Electrical Rough: Complete
- Energizing new electrical: Pending utilities relocation by Liberty
- Mechanical Rough: Complete
- Exterior Insulation: Complete*
- Siding and Trim: Complete*
- Roofing: Complete*
- Interior Insulation: Complete*
- Sheetrock and Ceiling Grid: Grid to start 9/14/26. Sheetrock Complete*
- Flooring: In progress
- Millwork trim finishes: In Progress
- Painting: To start 9/7/26

*Complete with the exception of the location where Liberty Utility still has not disconnected the old power feed. We hope that Liberty can complete their work by mid-September, but this has not been confirmed.

We would like to offer the Trustees a private tour. Please reach out to me so it can be scheduled.

Keith