**George H. Stowell Library Trustees Draft Minutes**
**October 22, 2026, 1:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Library**

**PRESENT: Trustees:** Laura Cousineau, Kathi Patterson, Marie De Rusha
**Librarian:** Deanna Fitch
**Citizens:** Martha Zoerheide

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:02. The agenda was reviewed and under "Old Business" was added the answer from Heather Meeks regarding the $20,000 donation from the Schulle Trust.

2. Minutes of the August 29 meeting were approved, the September 24 meeting was amended on #6, paragraph C were amended to read "where best used to either building", changing the word "library" to "building".

3. See attachment for Treasurer's Report.

4. See attachment for Librarian's Report.

5. Correspondence:

**a**. Laura contacted NHMA regarding the name change for the Trustees. The response received stated it was rather simple, referencing NH State RSA 202-A. Laura made the motion and moved that the name of this Trustee group be changed from "The George H. Stowell Free Library Trustees" to "the Trustees of the Cornish Library and Community Center", with the effective date of this change to be on the date that the new library and community center has been accepted and turned over to the Town of Cornish. Kathi seconded and the motion passed in the affirmative.

**b.** Steve Cutter, a local resident, sent Laura an email offering a donation of a piece of his artwork. Laura answered stating it will need to be discussed once the new building is open and the Trustees have the opportunity to see what the space has to offer. There are policies in place regarding such donations.

**c.** Laura shared a personal email she received from a local resident offering a donation of a few framed artworks from artists of the past as a gift and to be on permanent display in the mezzanine. Kathi pointed out that insurance would need to be considered and the donor needs to understand these pieces would become property of the Library. They will not get them back. Laura again stated that the Trustees would need to see the space once it is completed to take any donations under consideration.

6. Old Business:
Laura spoke with Heather Meeks regarding an email that was sent pertaining to the donation from the Schulle Trust. Heather stated through an email that once the town takes possession of the building so that it is the town library, those funds would be available to use however the Trustees choose. Laura stated the funds could be used to relocate books into the new building.

- **a.** We are still waiting for the Board of Selectmen and Cornish Historical Society to meet and discuss any arrangements.
- **b.** Laura made the motion she "move that the chair is authorized to write a thank-you-note on behalf of the Trustees to the Cornish Garden Club to thank them for their commitment to maintain the planters at the new Cornish Library and Community Center, as well as their current service for the urns at the Stowell Library." The Garden Club agreed in a meeting to maintain planters while any care of plantings would be the responsibility of Library staff. Marie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **c.** Name change was voted on during correspondence discussion.
- **d.** Laura and Deanna are currently reviewing other library's community room policies and are working on a kitchen policy. Marie asked about setting up a date for the moving company to look at the Stowell building in regard to relocation of books. Deanna will get back to her with her availability.

7. Donations:
Donation offers were discussed under correspondence. Laura added that she is somewhat concerned about storage of any donations, how we see the space used with fixed displays vs rotating displays/exhibits, accepting donations for permanent displays put in specific places designated by the donor and such. Kathi read related policies. Discussion ensued and it was decided Laura respond to the emails of donation offers with the related policies currently in place for the possible donors' understanding as well as the explanation of needing to see the completed space before making such decisions.

8. There were no citizen comments.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 at 1:00. Meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie De Rusha
Secretary

Treasurer's Report (09-24-26)

a. Building Fund balance as of 08-31-26 is $14,738.88
b. Checkbook balance as of 09-24-26 is $11,706.83
c. Donation Fund balance as of 08-31-26 is 1,762.89
d. Non-Lapsing Fund as of 08-31-26 is $1,207.56
e. Palmer-Norell Fund as of 08-31-26 is $1,007.70

Donations - none
Non-Lapsing - none
Schuelle Trust - $20,000

# Librarian Report: 10/22/2026

## CHECKED OUT MATERIALS:

| 2026 Count | Audio Book | Book | DVD | ILLs | Activity Backpack | Museum Pass | Rotating Collection Item | Teles cope | Library of Things | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sept | 8 | 384 | 2 | 40 | 0 | 2 | - | 0 | 5 | 441 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

**Patron Log** *(total in bold)*
Adults: **September 208x**
Children: **September 132x**
**2x** curbside
**24x** wifi
**3x** computer

## Events & Programming Participants:

*September- **71x total participation***
Programming in September included:

- Adult Book Club, Story Time
- Craft Night - Wooden Pumpkins

**Updates:**

- Musical Instruments are now available to check out from the Library of Things. We had a Musical Instrument Petting Zoo and jam circle with CES Music Teacher Joe Palmer-DeClara. Small turn out but very fun. Looking forward to having more music events and jams in the new space.
- Internet: We now have a Comcast Portal, so we have access to our modem.
    - Reached out to the government department via email about upgrades. Waiting to hear back.
- Cleaned and organized art supplies in the basement.
- Staff have been working hard to finish up spine label projects at the Stowell.
- Baystreet Books will pick up discarded books the first week in November (Mon/Tue)

**DUES:**

- NHDB - Overdrive will be $1,088. Up $23 from last year. ($1,065)
- LUV Audio Books Dues: November 16 is our Luncheon, and I will receive the invoice at that time for 2027. Due January 2027.
- Waiting to hear about 2026 dues. (LUV AUDIOs)
- Ancestry.com: We will have this for 2027. Dues are $150 (Gave Invoice to Kathi)

**Meetings:**

- Started Community Room Policies with Laura.
- MOU with David K. and Kathi P.
- Interior Committee - Made final selection and purchase of furniture with Caroline S.