

September 2025



Exciting Progress on the New Cornish Library and Community Center

The Cornish Community Initiative (CCI) and many volunteer committee members have been hard at work over the past several months, moving steadily toward the construction of the new Cornish Library and Community Center. Throughout the summer, our Building Committee has met regularly to finalize the many details needed to break ground this fall. That time is near, and we're excited to share the good news with the community. We look forward to a special event celebrating the beginning of renovations to the former Cornish General Store building.

During the summer, the CCI met with the Cornish Planning Board and Selectboard to review the project and site plan. The Planning Board offered helpful recommendations, and the Selectboard shared valuable feedback. On September 15, the property was transferred to the CCI. Special thanks to Mike Fuerst for handling the transaction. We've now applied for a building permit, and contractors are ready to begin work.

You may have already noticed some activity around the building. Gallagher Tree Service removed box elder trees along the edges of the property and ground the stumps on the north side. On the south side, stumps were excavated by Jim Reuthe of Claremont.

Inside the building, store equipment was either sold or donated. Free items were also offered in the parking lot during the summer. Volunteers helped remove interior horizontal siding, which will be recycled for the new building. Tables and chairs have been stored for future use.

Adaptive equipment from the basement was relocated and remains available through Cornish Aging in Place. Groups that previously used the space have found alternate locations for their meetings.

The Building Committee members (Keith Mullane, Peter and Caroline Storrs, Peter MacLeay, Laura Cousineau) have been working closely with Construction Manager Spiros Tzilianos of Trumbull-Nelson, architect Ingrid Nichols of Banwell Architects, and Adam Morse of Engineering Ventures, to refine the building and site plans. They engaged with local contractors and conducted a thorough bidding process selecting the best partners for the job.

Around October 1st, the property will be fenced off as demolition work begins, starting with the removal of the rear apartment. Contractors will also begin removing outdated plumbing and electrical systems. Please stay tuned for updates via the CCI website and Connect Cornish. We will also be keeping the Selectboard aware of progress bi-monthly.

The start of construction marks the culmination of more than four years of planning. This journey began in May 2021, with the generous offer of the Cornish Store as the future home of a modern town library and community center. Since then, Cornish has voted twice in favor of this project. With widespread community support, generous donations and pledges, and a \$727,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission, the project moved into active development earlier this year.

Weekly and monthly meetings have continued through the summer to keep everything on track. None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity, skills, and support shared by so many in our community. Creating something meaningful and enduring is always a collective effort, made possible by the contributions of many. Over the next 14 to 16 months, you'll witness the transformation as construction progresses. We are building a new Cornish Library and Community Center that will serve our town for generations to come. **Watch for updates on the Library Project Page on our website by visiting <https://cornishci.org/library>.**

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