Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks New Chapter for Cornish Library and Community Center

Cornish Flat, NH — October 7, 2025

Community members gathered on Oct 7th at the future site of the Cornish Library and Community Center to celebrate the groundbreaking of a project four years in the making. The former general store in Cornish Flat will soon be transformed into a modern, accessible space for learning, gathering, and connection.

"This moment has been years in the making, and it's thrilling to stand here today at the start of something so meaningful for our town," said **Colleen O'Neill**, Chair of the **Cornish Community Initiative**, the nonprofit leading the project.

The original Cornish library was gifted to the town in 1912 by George H. Stowell. Remarkably, today's groundbreaking comes just days after the 113th anniversary of that dedication. Now, the Cornish Community Initiative is following in that tradition—donating a brand new library and community space to the town, made possible by generous local donations, pledges, and grants.

With a total project cost of **close to $3M**, the new facility will include:

- Full accessibility

- Expanded collections space

- A children's room

- A "library of things" (telescope, metal detectors, dishware, etc.)

- Community meeting space

- Energy-efficient features, including solar panels and heat pumps

- Outdoor spaces: a porch, patio, and green triangle park

- Modern bathrooms and ample parking

Construction is expected to take **12-15 months**. The new facility will be gifted to the town upon completion.

O'Neill expressed thanks to the many partners involved, including the **Cornish Library Trustees**, **Selectboard**, **Planning Board**, **Friends of the Library**, **librarians**, **Banwell Architects**, **Engineering Ventures**, **Trumbull-Nelson Construction**, and the numerous volunteers and donors who made the project possible.

"This new library will be a place for everyone—a space to gather, learn, and grow," said O'Neill. "We can't wait to welcome the community back here to celebrate its opening."