

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Conway Public Library Receives \$10,000 Technology Grant From NH Charitable Foundation

Conway, NH – February 1st, 2023 – The Friends of the Conway Public Library (CPL) have been awarded a \$10,000 technology grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) for the purpose of implementing a new public computing system.

CPL was recently informed by the vendor of its current public computing system that they plan to leave the public computing business and will no longer offer any updates to the system CPL has used with them for the last nine years. That being the case, it was decided a new system was needed as soon as possible. Library staff immediately began the process of identifying a new public computing solution.

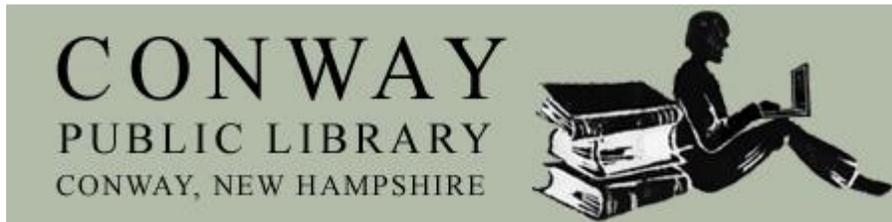
After researching the topic, library staff decided the solution from Envisionware would meet the needs of the community and be consistent with the high level of public computing and technology training the library provides the residents of the Town of Conway and beyond.

The new solution will represent a major improvement in service to the community and is consistent with how people interact with the Internet today. For the first time the new system will feature tablet computers for checkout. Tablets will be checked out to patrons, just like a book, for three hours. The tablets will be stored in a docking station. When the tablet is returned the station will wipe the tablet clean and revert it to a default state, thus protecting patron privacy.

The new set up will still have traditional desktop workstations for any use that might be better completed in that environment.

The total cost of the project is \$22,140. The Library Trustees submitted a warrant article to the Board of Selectmen for the full cost but now the request will be reduced by \$10,000. The warrant article was unanimously recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Library Director David Smolen and Chair of the Board Julie Laracy appeared before the Municipal Budget Committee January 30th to present the case for the remaining amount needed to make the project happen.

David Smolen said, “We thank the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for their generous support of our technology needs. Public libraries are technology hubs that provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We look forward to implementing our new system and continue to be a leader in the area of public computing.”



Founded in 1900, the mission of the Conway Public Library is to create an environment that promotes lifelong learning and community engagement. To meet that end the library collects and provides access to materials in print and digital form that meets the intellectual and cultural needs of the community. The address of the Library is 15 Greenwood Avenue in Conway Village. Library hours are Monday -- Thursday 9-8, Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-1.