



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CPL Board of Trustees Update Regarding the 3/31/22 Damage to Library Façade

Conway, NH – April 9th, 2022 – The Conway Public Library Trustees report that they have completed a preliminary assessment of the process required to begin the repair and restoration to building damage caused in the truck collision on March 31, 2022. The incident toppled two of the brownstone columns and caused other damage to the front of the structure, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Library Director David Smolen has led an effort to protect the building from further damage. The library engaged HEB to produce drawings for temporary shoring for the front overhang where the columns once stood. HEB engineers have confirmed that the building remains structurally sound and that the columns were not load-bearing. LA Drew will install the shoring as soon as possible. The town's insurer, NH Primex, met with Smolen on Tuesday April 5th, to discuss the project and the insurer's role in the process. The trustees support the hiring of a project manager to coordinate all repair activities going forward.

A subcommittee is being organized to help with the project, to be comprised of trustees, staff, and Earl Sires, Gary MacDonald, and Rob Adair as members of the public. The purpose of the subcommittee will be to establish a standard for contractor proposals. The subcommittee will review proposals and make a recommendation to the board of trustees on contract selection.

Whenever possible, preference will be given to contractors who have a background in historic preservation, as the trustee's goal is to preserve the integrity of the historic structure's design and aesthetic.

The trustees would like to extend their gratitude to the library patrons, library staff, library director and town service personnel and local building professionals who have been so supportive of the effort to repair the library and begin plans for its restoration.