

Pawlet Public Library
Monthly Meeting of Board of Trustees
MINUTES
Dec 3, 2019

Present:

Trustees in attendance: Janno Gay, Diane Mach, Kathryn Lawrence, Sally Caras, Marty Kravitt

Trustees absent: n/a

Library Director: Mary Lou Willits

Invited Guests: Sara Young, Mike Robinson

Attending: n/a

Call to order: 6:01 pm, Janno Gay opened the meeting with a call to order. Kathryn Lawrence seconded.

Public Comment

None.

Review of Operating Norms

The meeting began with Diane Mach's reading of the board's agreed-upon Operating Norms.

Minutes

Janno motioned to approve the November minutes, seconded by Diane, motion carried.

December Agenda

Janno called attention to the December meeting agenda and called for any additions or changes. None were put forward. Janno moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Diane.

Hello Sara Young

Director Mary Lou Willits introduced PPL's first Community Connector, Sara Young, to the board. In fact, it was Sara's first day on the job. The Connector position was established in PPL's Strategic Plan. In this role, Sara will identify and network with available services/resources to create a PPL clearinghouse, including outreach, that benefits Pawlet residents and community groups. Sara brings impressive skills, experience and enthusiasm to this new and very important post. Mary Lou and Sara described initial steps planned for launching the new role.

Treasurer's Report

Kathryn Lawrence led an overview of the PPL Treasurer's financial report and update, including recaps of PPL's annual fundraising and grants received to date. All finances are on track, there are no surprises. Diane moved to approve the December financial report; Janno seconded the motion; the board approved.

Kathryn noted the board's earlier discussion to close out its last remaining mature money market account in December. She recounted the tentative plan to move those funds to PPL's reserve account with Vermont Community Foundation. Kathryn raised a second option for consideration: moving some or all of the Money Market funds to PPL's endowment fund with VCF. Following discussion of both options, it was decided to move the money market funds to PPL's reserve fund for now, retaining the option to consider the endowment fund at a future date. Janno made a motion to move the funds to PPL's reserve fund with VCF. Diane seconded; the full board voted in support of the move. Kathryn will contact VCF to put things in motion.

Director's Report

Mary Lou provided recaps of November PPL Events, including:

- November 17, thirty-five Pawlet residents attended PPL's Newcomer Panel to meet five new Pawlet residents to learn what drew them to our area and how things have gone. Sharing insights on why they chose Pawlet were Joann and Mike Robinson, Russ and Maripat Lane and Jessica Van Oort. The panel discussion followed a well-stocked pot luck dinner. Conversation was lively and informative.
- November 22, teams from PPL and Mettawee Community School met to solidify future plans for a joint literacy partnership supported by PPL's grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation. Already underway are PPL's book reading programs encouraging pre-K readers through special "book bins" for young readers and one-on-one coaching of youngsters and parents by PPL's literacy consultant Catherine Hunter. Book-oriented events for families are planned.
- December 3, Mary Lou and Janno met with Select Board facilities liaison John Malcolm to follow-up on needs to repair the library front steps and address the facility's accessibility issues. They introduced the subject of Pawlet's eligibility for grants to cover aspects of the facility upgrades. Mary Lou and Janno provided a list of suitable grants available for cultural centers in designated downtown areas, as grant options that the town of Pawlet might want to pursue. Prior to the meeting, Mary Lou talked informally with Pawlet's interim zoning administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, who is a professional municipal grant writer.

Mary Lou noted that, on November 18, an ice slide from the library roof fell onto the front and driver's side of her car causing \$1,900 worth of damage. The accident occurred along the building's north façade, just east of the front door. Library staff immediately notified the town office and cordoned off north façade parking with orange cones and yellow rope. Parking there is suspended until further notice.

Marty Kravitt brought up that three rail roof snow/ice guard installations can be done year-round. He cited a ballpark cost of \$5,000 per facade, based on an estimate he got for installing rails over the rear ramp from historic buildings roofing consultant Russel Watsky of Ossining, NY.

New Business

Marty suggested that the town consider buying a listed School Street residential property for community use, instead of backing the PPL board-approved Lift Plan Expansion to make existing library spaces fully accessible year-round by community groups. He offered to form a Pawlet Projects Committee to oversee the new idea. With little time left, Janno requested that the conversation be deferred to a future date.

Norms

At closing: the meeting norms were revisited by Diane, who had requested discussing a change to streamline the wording in one passage. Her change was proposed, voted on and finalized.

Meeting Adjourned: 8 pm

Next meeting: January 7, 2020

Minutes submitted December 10, 2019 by Secretary Sally Caras.