

Pawlet Public Library  
Monthly Meeting of Board of Trustees  
MINUTES  
January 7, 2020

**Present:**

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

*Trustees absent:* n/a

*Library Director:* Mary Lou Willits

*Attending:* Janine Seitz

Call to order: 6:03 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 December minutes, seconded by Kathryn, motion carried.

**January Agenda**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathryn Lawrence led an informal overview of the financials, including recaps of PPL's annual fundraising and grants received to date. All bills are paid, finances are on track, there are no surprises.

**Director's Report**

Among topics Mary Lou Willits discussed:

- December PPL Events, including the December 16 Holiday Tea, which was attended by 45 Pawlet residents
- Signed petitions for PPL board of trustees position will be accepted by the Town Clerk until 5 pm on January 27,
- On January 15, PPL Community Connector Sara Young will lead the first Connectors Gathering, graciously hosted by the Meinerths at their home. Attending will be representatives of the Pawlet Town and community groups who participated in the development of PPL's Strategic Plan
- 77 donors have contributed to the PPL annual fund drive.

**Library Handicapped Accessibility Project**

At the December 30 Select Board meeting, the Pawlet Select Board voted to add the proposed Library Handicapped Accessibility Project (Lift Plan Expansion) to the official Pawlet ballot for town elections on Tuesday, March 3. The Lift Plan Expansion design was commissioned by the Select Board in 2018 from Wallingford architect Ralph Nimitz. As agreed then, the Library Board held off on the design review until the 2019 completion and public review of the PPL Strategic Plan 2020-2024. In November, the PPL Board approved the Nimitz plan as meeting the defined Strategic Plan needs and informed the Select Board. Following their December 30 vote, the

Select Board asked the Library Board to move forward in informing Pawlet residents about the project specifics and pending March 3 town vote.

**Related Community Informational Meeting**

As discussed, PPL will host a public presentation at the library to provide Pawlet residents with information about the handicapped accessibility improvements that are necessary for the main floor of the library to bring it into year-round compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the need to extend handicapped accessibility to the lower level of library for growing library and community use. The presentation will include grant funding opportunities that will offset the calculation of cost per taxpayer household for the lift expansion.

The board decided to schedule the community informational meeting at the library on Sunday, February 9, 2-4 pm. The library board's presentation will be followed by a Q & A.

Board members agreed to attend the Town's Informational Meeting at the Mettawee Community School on Monday, March 2 to provide information and answer questions when the article is discussed.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Norms**

At closing: the meeting norms were read by Diane,

Meeting Adjourned: 6:47 pm

Next meeting: February 4, 2020

Minutes submitted January 10, 2020 by Secretary Sally Caras.