

Pawlet Public Library
Monthly Meeting of Board of Trustees

MINUTES

April 6, 2021

Present: Trustees in attendance (virtual mtg): Jacki Becker, Kathryn Lawrence, Diane Mach, Marty Kravitt, Sue LaPorte **Absent:** none

Library Director: Mary Lou Willis

Visitor: Janine Seitz, Jed Rubin, Linda Welch, Harley Cudney, Monica Kravitt

Call to order: 6:02 pm-Diane opened the meeting with a call to order.

Review of Operating Norms: The meeting began with Sue reading the Operating Norms.

Motion made to approve March minutes by Kathryn, seconded by Diane.

Motion to approve April agenda by Diane, seconded by Sue.

Book Sale Discussion Diane and Mary Lou spoke with Principal Debonis, who is willing to support having the sale at the school. It is unknown at this time whether public will be allowed inside but may have tents on the back parking lot if not. The use of the kitchen will not be available, and there may be less bathroom availability. It was determined that, even as guidelines change, the Board is not interested in taking on the food offerings but will discuss offering area businesses an opportunity to provide food. Custodial staff will be available to help. The previous food offerings have not been significantly lucrative in raising money for library. Dates for sale will be the weekend of 7/24 and 25.

Janine pointed out that special arrangements for "Rare and Vintage" books will need to be made if the set up is going to be outside.

Janno and Sally provided outline of work procedures from previous years. Discussed that this is a big commitment on the part of the Library Board, but that it is important for the Library as well as the town and the board determined they would like to proceed.

Mary Lou will revamp the Book Sale website page. The calls for books donations will be referred to Jed and Janine; we will not advertise for book donations at this time, but if people reach out we can direct them to take books to Jed's barn.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathryn reviewed and clarified the budget accounts. Funds went to reimburse the town for what they had paid the Community Connector position. Paying the credit card with the new process has worked well, (i.e., pay the credit card bill on its arrival and it will be included in that month's warrant. This will allow that the bill will be paid on time and no further fees will be assigned. The bill will thus be paid without prior approval by the board.)

Director's Report Mary Lou reviewed the schedule for the adult and children's programs, considering the opening of Covid guidelines. Significant interest is expected for the coffee house events, and we may want to consider a change to a larger venue than the library.

Will need to determine timing of Fall fundraising event.

Mary Lou reviewed the grants received and the newly applied for grants.

Discussed the Federal money that may be coming from the Department of Libraries, Build America's Libraries Act. This will be significant funding for Vermont Libraries if it goes through.

Phased reopening: Bone builders would like to return to the library under stringent RSVP Covid safety guidelines. Motion made to approve by Kathryn, seconded by Diane. Full support of board given.

The library will open more fully to the public in May. Library staff and volunteers are comfortable with this.

Annual appeal letters-additional letters being resent to those who did not yet donate this fiscal year. Sara has developed those letters, and board members are asked to add notes. There now is the ability to donate online.

Vermont Library Association Conference: All staff and all board members may attend the virtual conference for free this year if we join VLA with a group board membership (\$50) and a library organization membership (\$50). Mary Lou will send conference schedule and registration information when it becomes available. Motion made by Diane to join, seconded by Kathryn-all in favor.

Community Connector's Report Working on the Volunteer Network as well as the transportation grant.

Election of officers and appointment of committee chairs. No changes made.

President-Diane Mach

Treasurer-Katherine Lawrence

Secretary-Jacki Becker

Committee Chairs: Book Sale-Diane; Dinner Auction-Sue; Nominating Committee-Marty

Motion made to keep all assignments the same by Katherine, seconded by Sue-all in favor.

New Business: Await date for decision by school principal for indoor or outdoor Book Sale.

Public Comment: Monica Kravitt presented her extensive research on the role Pawlet played in the Revolutionary War. Monica is requesting the support of the Library Board in placing a monument with plaque in the Town Green commemorating this involvement. Monica has brought this idea to the Select Board and the Pawlett Historical Society. Appreciation for her efforts was given, and suggestion by Board Chair that Monica determine interest of the Town's people in this initiative and further explore once that is determined.

Reflection of Norms-read by Diane.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 Next Meeting May 4, 6 pm