

Pawlet Public Library
Monthly Meeting of Board of Trustees
MINUTES

February 7, 2023

Present: Trustees in attendance: Harley Cudney, Grace Larson, Heather Lund

Kathryn Lawrence via speaker phone

Lyndsi Barnes, Library Director

Community Members: Linda Welch, Fred Stone

Call to Order: 6:06 Harley calls to order

New Agenda Items: Discussion of library volunteer program, posting of agenda and minutes, OWL program

Review of January Minutes: Heather motions to approve, Grace seconds, all agree

Fred Stone wants his donation to go toward the movable shelves. He also says that the Saturday morning tech program has been very successful. Lyndsi reports that the program has been grant-funded through the end of June. It is suggested that the program should be re-advertised (town hall, school, library, post office, etc.) to take maximum advantage of the grant. Harley and Lyndsi will do this.

There is a discussion of a hearing loop system – Linda knows of libraries that have received grants for these, Lyndsi will look into the possibility of a grant.

Fred has extra black sunflower birdseed he will donate for the library to sell/give away.

Treasurer's report

- Kathryn reports that Julie has opened a new checking account with Berkshire Bank. There are still some funds in People's Bank to ensure any checks have cleared before we close the account.
- Lyndsi reports that we will also have a credit card with Berkshire Bank, it is waiting approval, and will be a municipal credit card so no individual social security numbers will be associated with it.

Director's Report:

- Yoga: no one was paying with "pay what you can", so there is now a suggested fee, and the instructor has lowered her fee, but it is still important that no one is turned away if they can't pay.
- Lyndsi and Julie have a spreadsheet tracking grant money coming in and being spent.
- August 15 is the deadline for fall raffle donations.

New Business

- Harley proposes that we should increase funding for programs in the budget in order to increase use of the library and attract new patrons and suggests changing the current allocation of \$2,000 to \$5,000. That money can come from underspent line elsewhere. Lyndsi points out that some fiscal and timing flexibility is important for securing grant money, which is important for programs. For now, the board will entertain extending funding beyond the current budget on a per case basis, with the intention to hopefully increase the line item for programing in the future.
- Library volunteer program – is there a good model for this from other libraries? We would have to consider vetting/screening/security concerns. Harley will research what other communities in Vermont do about this.
- Discussion of posting minutes/agenda, should we also be posting on Front Porch Forum?
- Harley has made a calendar for the board members including meeting dates and deadlines for fundraising activities.

Unfinished Business

- Bookshelves – Kathryn has two proposals, 1 for 3 units for \$7,000, the other (with some more specifics) also 3 units for \$2,800. Harley motions to approve the \$2,800 quote, Heather seconds, all agree. Kathryn will email the contractor and get a timeline.
- Board members – Grace, Heather, and Joni Lee will be on the ballot in March
- Building Repair – Harley has talked to Rudd’s Builders to look at repairs, it may be that the roof was repaired but the ceiling still needs to be.
- A New Yorker group has asked if the library would be willing to subscribe to OWL as a better platform for Zoom meetings, but until there is evidence that this would be a net benefit to the Pawlet community the issue is tabled for now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 6 pm at the library