

Pawlet Public Library
Meeting of Board of Trustees

MINUTES

May 7, 2024

Present: Trustees in attendance: Harley Cudney, Grace Larson, Kathryn Lawrence, Joni Lee, Lauren Herbert

Community Members:

Adelle Santwire, Jed Rubin, Linda Lynton, Lyndsi Barnes, Sue LaPorte, Janine Seitz, Eve Schaub, Cori Rail, Janine Saub, Carol Scheonwetter, Bob Shoenemann, Martha Shoenemann, Rhonda Schlanger, Hannah Herbert, Joanne Van Meter, Martin Kravitt, Monica Kravitt, Gordon Dissett (Manchester Journal), PEGTV

5:30 Call to order

Kathryn reads the operating norms.

Public Comment:

- Bob Shoenemann – supports the library Board and their decision.
 - o Harley points out that while there was discussion in executive session, the decision was made in open session.
- Cori comments that there needs to be a differentiation between public comment and as a private citizen.
 - o Harley points out that there was a question brought up in the last meeting and the Board was simply trying to clarify.
- Sue comments that that money for legal fees and rare book sales needs to be clarified.
- Joanne also questions the rare book sales. More accountability is needed.
- Marty – has no confidence in the 4 board members that voted to dismiss, and all should step down.
- Cori – does not feel represented and this will be reported.

Approval of minutes:

April regular meeting minutes, as addended to include the wording used to enter executive session:

- o Joni motions to approve, Kathryn seconds, motion carries.

Agenda – Kathryn motions to approve, Joni seconds, motion passes.

Secretary's Report – nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report – Kathryn reports on current balances.

- Lauren brings up that large expenditures should have been discussed by the Board before being approved – transparency is an issue, warrants should be discussed before being signed.
- Sue once again calls for the resignation of the Board.

Director's Report – Adelle gives a comprehensive regarding library usage and programs.

Rules of Procedure:

- Harley has distributed a draft from the VT Dept of Libraries, and would like to post as a draft.
- Joni motions to post this as a draft, Kathryn seconds, motion carries.
- Martha asks if we would still follow Robert's Rules of Order?
 - o Harley answers that this is basically a winnowed down version of that.
- Cori asks how can we comment?
- Lyndsi states that Bylaws are very specific and may need to be amended.
 - o Monica asks why we are voting on this.
- Grace motions to post a draft of Rules of Procedure on the Town's website, Lauren seconds, motion carries.

Marty states that this is not the time to take any action, as some Board members may not be on the board after the next election.

- Jed states that we should just do it.
- Cori reiterates that it should be posted publicly.
- Martha points out that postings such as these should be more accessible to the public (i.e. clearly on the website). Sometimes these posts are hard to find.

Book Sale:

- We no longer have a volunteer doing online sales of rare books.
- Joanne asks about the \$ coming in from rare book sales.
- Monica wants to keep rare books in the library.
- Lyndsi suggests selling all rare books at the book sale so locals get the first chance, and see what we get from that.
- Linda states that the librarian should be the first person to sort books.
- Marty states that the library should have something unique, right now there is nothing special about the library.
- Since we don't have anyone to do online sales this year all rare books will be sold in the rare books room at the sale.
- Kathryn brings up advertising/food sales.
 - o Adelle has spoken with Sally Cleveland, who might help again with the bake sale.
 - o Joni has been looking into food trucks.
 - o We need to clarify with the school to see what access we will have to the kitchen.
 - o Adelle and Nina will cover advertising.
 - o Joni, Kathryn, and Grace will coordinate food decisions.
 - o Lauren will contact schools/4H for help with book transport, Harley will check with 6th grade teachers.
 - o Harley will coordinate volunteers for the sale.
 - o Kathryn will coordinate cash/cashiers.
 - o Harley, Rick and Kathryn will put up the traditional signs.

Trustee training:

- Joni is working on coordinating this, and if needed it will be properly warned.

Director Hiring:

- We need 2 Board members to coordinate this process, as well as community members.
 - Sue says no, it will cost the library too much money, and if there is an issue the library should just be closed. Also there will probably be a different Board next year.
 - Marty also objects.
 - Cori also objects, stating that we don't have an updated approved job description and thinks the Select Board should be involved.
 - Harley points out that hiring or dismissing a Director is the Board's duty.
 - Jed says go ahead and hire a new director, there's a reason we need one.
 - Monica – this is all detrimental and embarrassing to the town, get it done or resign.
- Joni motions to start the Director hiring process, Grace seconds, Lauren votes Nay, all else vote Yay, motion carries.
 - Harley and Joni would like to be on the selection committee.

Policies:

- We will look at gift policies at the next meeting.
- Harley has a draft pets policy, we will also post this as a draft policy for discussion.

Building maintenance:

- Lauren has looked into window cleaning and is getting an estimate soon.
 - Unclear at this point if the Town or Library will pay, but needs to be done.

No new business

Public Comment:

- Sue brings up the Rockingham Public Library director dismissal, reads a letter from her and Marty, calls again for the Board to resign.

Lauren reiterates that we need to work on timing so the entire Board gets to read the Warrant for payment before it is signed and sent to the town for payment.

Kathryn moves to adjourn, Joni seconds, meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting June 4th, 5:30pm at the Library.

Dated May 12, 2024, Grace Larson, Secretary