Minutes of Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting
January 27, 2025 at 6:30 pm (online/in-person)

Present: Bill Houle, Mary Blank, Hanna Domagala, Colleen Golka, Teresa Ostapowicz, Claire Sullivan
Online: Kevin Quade

1. Chair Bill Houle called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.
2. Acknowledgement Statement: "***I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. We recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples whose presence continues to enrich our communities."***
3. Declaration of conflict of interest: None.
    a. Hanna Domagala motioned to approve the agenda for January 27, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Kevin Quade. Carried.
    b. Colleen Golka motioned to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 open meeting and minutes of the November 25, 2024 closed meeting. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
4. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Policy: none
        i) Colleen Golka agreed to update policy for the remainder of this board term.
    b. Strategic Planning:
        i) Formation of strategic plan sub-committee was deferred to after the workshop with Holley Hayes and Chéla Inc.
    c. Library Enhancement:
        i) Holly Hayes, of Trestle Consulting and Chéla of Chéla Inc. discussed their proposal for a strategic planning workshop, and answered questions from board members.
        ii) Bill Houle motioned to contract Holly Hayes, of Trestle Consulting and Chéla of Chéla Inc. to lead a strategic workshop in spring 2025. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
        iii) The secretary will follow up with the consultants regarding potential dates.
5. Correspondence: none
6. Mary Blank motioned to accept the Librarian's Report for November and December 2024. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

    -In November, the new ILL system, OCLC, went live. Many libraries paused ILLs due to the postal strike and implementation of the new system. Our library is one of several that experienced technical issues between our catalogue and OCLC; this is still being resolved. Our library did not pause ILLs. Between the new system and the strike, ILL statistics are down 25%.
    -Book Club read Left on Tenth by Delia Ephron in November. Due to the postal strike, we did not have a new selection for our December meeting.
    -The Employment Centre continues to attend the library twice a month. Bringing this service to the library continues to be a benefit to the community.
    -BIAK provided an Indigenous drumming session on Nov 20 and Dec 18. BIAK provides excellent Indigenous programming for pre-school children. The daycare attends and recently a couple of families from the community have been attending.
    -The new accessible entrance and ramp opened mid-December. Patrons appreciate having an entrance at the back parking lot, and the ramp is helpful for strollers and different abilities alike.
    -Toy Bus had extra funds to offer a Mother Goose program in Barry's Bay. They brough the program to the library for 4 weeks over November and December. We had a great turn out with 4

or 5 new mothers attending with their infants. The program was so successful, Toy Bus is returning in January and February for 8 weeks.
-Our walking club meets every Friday at 1pm at the library, in all weather. They walk around town for 30-60 minutes, and then meet at the library to socialize for another hour!
-IN November we offered a PA crafternoon, which was well attended by 12 children and caregivers.
-We offered an adult craft and chat morning at the end of November. We had 6 attendees, which is all we have room to comfortable accommodate. They made holiday themed tea night holders using jars.
-In December, the library participated in Moonlight Madness with the BIA. We opened the library late until 8pm, offering live music, grift wrapping by donation, crafts and stories. Music was provided by local teens and friends playing a variety of instruments including bass guitar, electric keyboard, and saxophone. We had a better turnout than last year. Community advertising of Moonlight Madness events would help everyone who participates.
-The library also participated in the Santa Claus parade and events at the arena – we offered a story time and hot chocolate before the parade. At the arena we provided a Santa letter-writing station, crafts, coloring contest, and scavenger hunt. Along with the activities provided by BBRC and Lions, this was a successful event!
-Six classes participated in our school Christmas book program. We provided 12-holiday themed books, gift wrapped, for students to open and read aloud in the two weeks before the holiday break. We also had a colouring contest. Three families participated in this program as well.
-Over the school holiday break, we provided our annual holiday story and cookie decorating program on the Saturday before Christmas (18 attendees). We also provided a game night and Lego Club (7 attendees) over the holidays, and a craft afternoon with scavenger hunt (14 attendees). Caregivers appreciate library programming during school breaks to keep children entertained.
-In November and December, we collected winter clothing for CPAN (this is ongoing); items for the food bank (this is ongoing); and toys for the CRC Toy Drive. We also collected donations of $105 (up from $80 in 2023) to purchase books for the toy drive for children and teens.

7. Hanna Domagala motioned to accept the Treasurer's Financial Reports for November and December 2024. Seconded by Colleen Golka. Carried.

November 2024

Balance Forward	50,691.27
Deposits	7,924.41
Expenses	15,523.07
Bank Balance	**43,092.61**
Outstanding	2,743.88
Book Balance	**45,836.49**
Growth Savings	8,666.13
	54,502.62

December 2024

Balance Forward	43,092.61
Deposits	22,608.85
Expenses	20,287.89
Bank Balance	**45,413.57**
Outstanding	1,932.76
Book Balance	**47,346.33**
Growth Savings	8,699.38
	56,045.71

a. Bill Houle motioned to accept the draft 2025 budget. Seconded by Teresa Ostapowicz. Carried.
    i) The budget will be presented to MV Council on February 4 at 10am; and to BLR Council on February 5 at 7pm. Board members are encouraged to attend.

8. New Business:
    a. Hanna Domagala motioned to continue to sponsor the Pikwakanagan Public Library's FOPL fees. Seconded by Bill Houle. Carried.
    b. The BLR library service contract will be reviewed at BLR's council meeting on February 5.
    c. Please complete the 2024 Library Board Evaluation for the February meeting.
    d. 2025 Library Board Goals: TBD after strategic session.
9. Recommendation that the meeting enter In-Camera Session to discuss matters pertaining to "the security of the property of the municipality or local board", "personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees", a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board", Ontario Municipal Act 2011, c.25, s.239 (2)(a)(b)(c).

10. Motion to adjourn by Mary Conway at 8:30pm.

11. Upcoming Dates:
    Board Meetings February 24, 2025, March 31, 2025, April 28, 2025, May 26, 2025, June 23, 2025
    Trivia May 9, 2025

William Houle, Chair

Natalie Barrington, Secretary