Minutes of the Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting
June 24, 2024 at 3:30 pm (online/in-person)

Attendance: Mary Conway, Hanna Domagala (online), Claire Sullivan, and Mary Blank.
Regrets: Bill Houle and Kevin Quade.

1. Claire Sullivan made a motion to nominate Mary Conway to chair the meeting, in absence of the board chair; seconded by Mary Blank.
2. Mary Conway, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 3:55pm. Quorum was confirmed.
3. 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."***
4. Declaration of conflict of interest: none
5. Claire Sullivan made a motion to approve the June 24, 2024 agenda; seconded by Mary Blank. Carried.
6. Claire Sullivan made a motion to approve the May 27, 2024 minutes; seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.
7. Mary Blank made a motion to approve the May 27, 2024 closed meeting minutes; seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
8. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Policy: none
    b. Strategic Planning:
        a. CEO will follow up with CAO Sue Klatt regarding consultant to mediate the board's vision for library enhancement.
        b. CEO to follow up with CEO at Callendar Public Library regarding their new build.
    c. Board member vacancy: deadline to apply extended to July 19. Applications will be forward to council for selection at an August council meeting so new members can attend the September board meeting.
9. Correspondence: none
10. Claire Sullivan made a motion to approve the Librarian's Report for May/June; seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.

    The library received a grant of $1,150 from the Pembroke Petawawa Community Foundation (now the Ottawa Valley Community Foundation) to fund our youth mental health programs. Miriam Granger, who is leading these programs, attended the Foundation's AGM with me on June 10, where cheques were presented. The Foundation will be releasing an official press release soon. Several organizations received grants, including three Barry's Bay groups. We held a 5-session program in April for pre-teens, and plan to hold a parent session this fall and a teen program. These funds will allow for more mental health themed programming in 2025 as well.

    We held a "Buy a Bag" Used Book Sale over Bay Day weekend – we raised over $700 during this two-day sale. People could purchase a bag of books for $10 or $20 depending on the size. Cloth bags were donated by Metro, Valumart, and Kristin Graves Kuiack. We plan to repeat the bag sale throughout the summer.

    May 3 I attended the Community Employment Services Job Fair at MVDS. This was a great opportunity to showcase library services to teens in the area and solicit applications for our summer student position. The candy bowl definitely helped to attract teens to the library's table!

    May 3 was our Spring Trivia night. We had 12 teams plus a donation to sponsor a team. The Current sponsored our table snacks. Sean Conway MC'd the event. We raised $1,100. Feedback from the event was very positive. While trivia night is one of the library's major fundraisers, it is also a social, community event that many groups look forward to attending.

May 4 Adam Shoalts gave an author talk about his new book *Where the Falcon Flies*. This event was held at the Opeongo Senior's Centre with over 100 people in attendance. In addition to many local residents, quite a few attendees travelled as much as two hours to attend this talk.
June 8 Charlotte Gibson gave an author talk about her book *Running with Unicorns*, and told her story of helping her sister who struggled with mental illness. 13 people attended this event at the Legion.
Denis Boulianne ran a sewing workshop for adults in May. We had 6 people attend. They each learned basic sewing skills and made cloth bags. Denis is available to run an advanced program in the fall, and a teen session during this summer.
We held a Mother's Day craft on May 12 with a small turnout. On June 16 we held a Father's Day craft and we had 12 attendees.
BIAK was at the library May 24 and June 7. Due to staff changes they have not been able to attend for several months so it was very exciting to have them back! Kidz Kastle daycare attended both sessions as well as a couple of families from the community.
Laura started a Kids Gardening Club on May 24. They met again June 9 and June 22. The MV Gardening Club donated funds to purchase our raised bed; and the smaller raised bed was donated by Bill Prince who made both beds. Soil, seeds, and plants were also donated. Drop by the library to see all of our plants!
Thank you for the Madawaska Valley Township for placing an assessable picnic table at the library. It is located on the side of the building, next to our raised bed gardens. This is a lovely addition to the library, and hopefully will encourage patrons to stay a while.
Service Canada was at the library June 4 and were overwhelmed with appointments and walk-ins. Service Canada will be back in the fall.
Algonquin College Community Employment Services continues to hold two pop ups per month, two hours each, and will continue over the summer. They typically serve two – three people per pop up. They came to the library May 9 and 30, and again June 13 and 27. We are happy to help fill this service gap in our community.
Our Walking Group continues to meet each week, with 5-6 regulars. They socialize at the library afterwards. It has been a great group for reducing isolation and helping newcomers meet people. They will continue to meet over the summer and may plan some field trips to local hiking spots.
Faith Shiner was hired as our Canada Summer Job student. Faith starts June 25 and will be working at the library for 9 weeks this summer.
Book Club read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles in May with mixed reviews. Our next read is *The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman.*
In June, July and August, we will be focusing on increased traffic, planning and delivering summer programs.

11. Hanna Domagala made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Financial Report for May 2024; seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.

Balance Forward	$158,326.80
Deposits	$3,180.90
Expenses	$16,706.40
Bank Balance	**$144,801.30**
Outstanding	$191.50
Book Balance	**$144,992.80**
Growth Savings	$8,602.85
	$153,595.65

12. New Business:
    a. Our new custodian Mary Trebinskie started July 1, 2024, on a one year contract.
    b. Mary Blank made a motion to send letters to the township in response to use of space and including the library elevator in discussions regarding elevators at municipal facilities; seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
    c. CEO to follow up with township regarding building repairs and downspouts for the front of the building.
    d. CEO to confirm the contract term for the current Internet service.
13. Next meeting date Monday, September 30; time to be confirmed..
14. Motion to adjourn by Hanna Domagala at 5:13pm.

There are no meetings in July and August.
The next meeting will be Sept. 30, 2024, time to be confirmed.

Mary Conway, Acting-Chair

Natalie Barrington, Secretary