Minutes of the Madawaska Valley Public Library Board
March 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm (online/in-person)

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

1. Chair Bill Houle called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
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
4. Approval of agenda and minutes:
    a. Mary Conway motioned to the February 24, 2025 agenda. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
    b. Kevin Quade motioned to accept the Jan 27, 2025 Board meeting minutes and Jan 27, 2025 closed meeting minutes. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
5. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Policy: none
    b. Strategic Planning:
        i) The secretary will follow up with Holly Hayes and Chela Breckon regarding a workshop date that all members can attend.
        ii) Bill Houle motioned to send a letter to MV Council regarding the purchase of the lot for sale at Drohan and Opeongo Line, expressing it would be a good location of a new library building. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
6. Correspondence:
    a. Sign up for the OLS newsletter or check their website for upcoming OLS webinars.
    b. FOPL sent an email regarding lobbying for public library support during the election.
    c. Fifth Estate episode: The war on books that's dividing a small town,
    Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRDL9Fm1ZLA
    Print article https://www.cbc.ca/newsinteractives/features/a-shadow-war-on-libraries
7. Mary Blank motioned to approve the Librarian's Report for January 2025. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.

- We continue to have technical problems with Insignia and the new ILL system. The CEO met with Insignia, and other libraries, to escalate the issue. We are told Insignia is working on upgrading their server to accommodate affected libraries.
- Due to the postal strike and hiccups with the new ILL system, we did not have a book club selection for January. Members met and discussed recent reads and travels.
- The Employment Centre pop ups continue to be successful – they have had a full schedule of appointments when attending the library. They are able to serve 3 people each session.
- The Toy Bus program was so successful last fall, they asked to return to the library for 8 weeks over January and February. Attendance ranges from two to five families or more each week.
- Due to Toy Bus being at the library on Wednesday mornings, Laura has been going to the daycare for story time. This has worked out well since some days would have been too cold for them to walk to the library. Story time at the library will return in March.
- 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!
- We offered a PA Day crafternoon January 31, to learn about Chinese New Year. Participants made paper lanterns, and dragons, read stories to learn about the symbols of Chinese New Year, played bingo, and took home snake bookmark craft kits, and red envelopes with chocolate coins. We had 14 participants.

- Artist of the month Kesley Fuller met with 8 patrons on Saturday, January 22 to talk about her work. We had requests to continue these meet the artist events, so we will continue to offer them if the artists are interested.
- Our student has taken over leading Lego Club, on the third Saturday of the month. We had a 9 participants in January. Each month there is a building challenge and games.
- We are thankful that volunteers Karen Filipkowski and Vick Glofcheskie are continuing to work on weeding old books from our collection. They spend 4 hours every Wednesday at this task. Their hard work is making room for new titles and highlighting subject gaps to fill.
- We have three volunteers – Betty Kirby, Nancy McGoldrick, and Nicole Conway – maintaining the used book sale. They process donations, weed old books, and keep the sale fresh, neat and inviting. They volunteer several hours a week to the library. The success of the sale is due to the donations from the community and their hard work.
- Lynn Peplinski also volunteers each week at the library to process newly catalogued books so they are ready to be checked out. Her continued dedication to the library is appreciated.

	January
Library visits	665
Items checked out	1270
Computer sessions	91
Personal devices	5
Memberships	
New MV*	9
New BLR	2
Renewals MV*	24
Renewals BLR	6
Interlibrary Loans	
Total	62
ILL borrowed	49
ILL lent	13
OverDrive/Libby	
ebooks	317
audiobooks	156
magazines	235
E-Resources	
World Travel	2
World Food	1
Mango Languages	21
Novelist	18
Kanopy	4 users
	63 plays
Fiero Code	15
CBC Corner	0
*includes non-resident & summer	

8. Mary Conway motioned to approve the Treasurer's Financial Report for January 2025. Seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.

Balance Forward	45,413.57
Deposits	6,179.97
Expenses	24,042.42
Bank Balance	**27,551.12**
Outstanding	1,924.87
Book Balance	**29,475.99**
Growth Savings	8,682.12
	38,158.11

   a. Council approved the library's 2025 budget. COLA to be confirmed when the bylaw is passed.
9. Bill Houle motioned to renew the term deposit at Northern Credit Union for another year. Seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.
10. New Business: none
    a. There was discussion to send a letter to the new provincial MPP to increase funding to public libraries, and to invite him to visit the library in fall 2025.

11. Mary Conway motioned to adjourn at 7:05pm.

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