Minutes of the Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting
March 31, 2025 at 6:30 pm (online/in-person)

Present: Bill Houle, Mary Conway, Mary Blank, Claire Sullivan
Online: Hanna Domagala, Terese Ostapowicz. Chris Ryan (auditor, MacKillican & Associates)
Regrets: Kevin Quade

1. Chair Bill Houle called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.
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 Blank moved to approve the March 31, 2025 agenda with the addition of room rental fee to New Business; and a closed meeting to the auditor's presentation. Seconded by Bill Houle. Carried.
    b. Bill Houle moved to accept the March 3, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
5. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Mary Conway moved to approve policies GOV-05 and OP-15; and to approve FR-01 with revisions. Seconded by Bill Houle. Carried.
    b. Strategic Planning:
        i) Workshop dates with Holly Hayes, Trestle Consulting & Chéla Inc.: Thursday, May 15, 10am to 2pm.
        ii) Mary Blank updated that the letter to Council regarding purchasing the lot at Drohan and Opeongo Line has not yet been reviewed at a Council meeting. It is unlikely to be approved at this time.
6. Correspondence: none
7. Librarian's Report – CEO/Head Librarian
    a. Colleen Golka moved to accept the Librarian's Report for February 2025. Seconded by Mary Blank. Carried.

- We were closed February 13 due to the snow storm.
- Toy Bus held their Mother Goose program at the library in February. They averaged 15 participants (caregivers and infants) at each session. This program brought some new and familiar faces to the library on Wednesday mornings.
- In January and February, while Toy Bus was at the library, Laura went to Kidz Kastle at St. John Bosco to read to the pre-school group. This was a great opportunity for library outreach into the community.
- We continue to have technical problems with Insignia and the new ILL system. Insignia reassures us that they are working on a fix. Until then, our ILL statistics are low as our books are not showing as available in the new system.
- The Employment Centre was at the library one session. They served 3 people.
- Walking group met throughout the winter. This has turned into a great group of friends who like to socialize at the library afterwards.
- Our artist of the month Melody McLean from Mamora displayed her paintings and felting in February. We had three attendees for on Feb 27 for the meet the artist night. These regular patrons love a chance to meet the artists and have discussions about their work.
- Lego Club met Feb 15 with 9 participants.
- The Kindergarten class from St. Bosco dropped by the library on a walk touring the community. Laura read them a couple of stories and they had a chance to warm up!

-Dennis Boulianne held another session of Learn to Sew workshops. The goal of this is to teach a cloth bag pattern to volunteers who will then make bags for the Food Bank. Bags for the Food Bank group will officially launch in April.
-Our Bullying workshop was postponed due to the leader being ill. We will reschedule this workshop and other groups for April/May and fall dates.

	February
Library visits	860
Items checked out	1085
Computer sessions	88
Personal devices	3
Memberships	
New MV*	9
New BLR	1
Renewals MV*	26
Renewals BLR	9
Interlibrary Loans	
Total	52
ILL borrowed	43
ILL lent	9
OverDrive/Libby	
ebooks	247
audiobooks	129
magazines	242
E-Resources	
World Travel	2
World Food	2
Mango Languages	26
Novelist	11
Kanopy	8
	51
Fiero Code	18
CBC Corner	2
*includes non-resident & summer	

8. Finance Report
    a. Mary Blank moved to approve the Treasurer's Financial Report for February 2025. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.

Balance Forward	27,551.12
Deposits	63,161.25
Expenses	12,690.93
Bank Balance	**78,021.44**

Outstanding	1,457.84
Book Balance	**79,479.28**
Growth Savings	8,689.11
	88,168.39

b. Chris Ryan, from MacKillican & Associates presented the draft 2024 audited financial statements and responded to questions from the Board. Mary Conway moved to approve the draft financial statements as presented. Seconded by Bill Houle. Carried.
c. Mary Conway moved to invest $10k of surplus from donations and fundraising from 2023 and 2024 to the term investment for future library enhancements, as per policy GOV-07.

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).

   Motion from Mary Conway to enter into In-Camera session. Seconded by Bill Houle. Carried.

10. Motion from Colleen Golka to return to open meeting. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

11. New Business:
    a. Board members signed up to solicit door prizes for May 9, 2025 Trivia night.
    b. Mary Blank presented a 2026 initiative for Flannel Fest. A planning meeting will be held May 12 at 6pm at the arena. Board members agreed this could be an opportunity for a fundraiser.
    c. The Board agreed to follow up with Kim Shalla regarding Zumbini classes at our regular rental rate as per policy OP-10.
12. Motion to adjourn by Bill Houle at 8pm. _____

13. Upcoming Dates:
    Board Meetings: April 28, 2025, May 26, 2025, June 23, 2025
    May 15 Board workshop ___
    Trivia May 9, 2025 _

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William Houle, Chair Natalie Barrington, Secretary