Minutes of the Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting
May 26, 2025 at 6:30 pm (online/in-person)

Present: Bill Houle, Mary Blank, Colleen Golka, Claire Sullivan, Hanna Domagala (online), Kevin Quade (online), Teresa Ostapowicz (online).

1. William Houle Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm._____
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. Claire Sullivan motioned to approve the May 26, 2025, agenda. Seconded by Colleen Golka. Carried.
5. Hanna Domagala motioned to approve the March 31, 2025, Board meeting minutes and March 31, 2025 closed meeting minutes. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
6. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Bill Houle motioned at accept revisions to policies OP-01, OP-10, OP-11, and OP-13 as presented. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
    b. Strategic Planning:
        i) Council discussed the chair's letter regarding letter the purchase of the lot at Drohan St. and Opeongo Line at their April 15, 2025, council meeting. It was decided this lot would be ideal for a commercial building, and purchasing land for a future library build is not a priority at this time.
        ii) The board attended a workshop with Chela Breckon and Holly Hayes on May 15. The consultants will be presenting their report from that workshop at the June 23 board meeting.
        iii) Overall the board evaluated itself with very good ratings and intermediate to advanced skills. Suggestions were made to revise the evaluation form for future use.
        iv) Hanna Domagala motioned to approve the 2025 Board Goals with additions. Seconded by Colleen Golka. Carried.
    c. The CEO attended the Flannel Fest meeting on May 12, 2025. Mary Blank was also in attendance. The library will develop ideas for how we can contribute to the weekend with a couple of events to meet different age groups.
7. We had a successful spring trivia night on May 9. We had 16 teams and two spectators. The canteen did well; tarts were donated by Adelle Yantha to sell. We made approximately $1300. Feedback was positive overall, but it has been noted that a few teams found the questions very challenging.
8. Correspondence:
    a. OLS Board Assembly meeting May 28 – no one was able to attend this session.
    b. COLA update – council has not yet approved for 2025.
    c. Green Municipal Fund grant – Hanna Domagala will prepare a synopsis of the grant requirements.
9. Claire Sullivan motioned to accept the Librarian's Report for March and April 2025. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

    March 2025

- We provided several programs to the community for March Break March 10-15:

    - Tuesday morning BIAK attended the library with an Indigenous drumming program including education about ribbon skirts and a related craft. 30 people attended (adults and children).
    - Wednesday, we offered two art programs due to demand. The morning art program was run by staff for young patrons, each painted a canvas. The afternoon program was lead by local artist Kelsey Fuller for older children. 19 people attended the morning, and 16 in the afternoon (adults and children).
    - Thursday, Let's Talk Science ran programs in BLR in the morning and MV in the afternoon. Children learned about animals, fur, fat and feathers; and rocks and mining. The BLR group was 25 and 23 at the library in the afternoon (adults and children).
    - We also ran a Fiero Code evening for teens with three participants.
    - Friday, we collaborated with the township for a children's St. Patrick's Day party which was a hit! We had face painting, music and dancing from the Sernoskies, crafts, and snacks. We estimated 80-100 people (adults and children) attended.
    - Saturday, we ran a Lego building competition with 11 kids and 7 adults attending.
    - These programs over school breaks are ideal for attracting new people to the library. We received many positive comments about this year's programming.
- March 22, Hanna Domagala and her partner gave a travel talk at the Balmoral Hotel, about their trip to Spain, hiking the Camino de Santiago. 45 people attended. We are thankful to the Balmoral Hotel and Le Belge Euro Bistro Salute for accommodating our event at the last minute.
- The Employment Centre had one session at the library this month, due to March Break, they met with 6 people.
- Kelly McLeod was our artist of the month. She held a "meet the artist" night with a small attendance of three people. Her art and local stories touched everyone.

April 2025

- We had a special artist of the month display in April. We had 6 local "amateur" artists display their work. These were artists who didn't feel comfortable displaying on their own, and wanted to bring only a couple of items. We showcased work from Duncan Biernaski, Roger Cardozo, Jennifer Lamont, Brookelyn Martin, Lynn Peplinski, and Emma Secker. Lynn Peplinski provided crochet toys for sale by donation for the month of April. We raised $149.
- Due to demand, we started a second book club on the second Thursday evening of the month. We have 4 members currently and room to add one or two more.
- We hosted a Canadian film for CanFilm Day. We showed the film Revolution, by Rob Stewart. This film looked at the effects of climate change. We chose this film since it aligned with Earth Day and was rated G.
- Our annual Easter Egg Photo Hunt was on Saturday April 19. We had approximately 75 people participate. This year we hid 30 photos. The township donated goodies for treat bags.
- We also held a Lego Club on April 19 and had 16 participants.
- The employment centre attended the library twice, April 10 and 24.
- For Earth Day on April 26 we launched our Seed Library and invited patrons to plant some flower seeds to take home.
- BIAK attended the library on April 30. We had 28 attendees, including the preschool daycare group, and three children from the community.
- We ran a coding club on April 17, with one attendee. We are now competing with youth spring sports.

- Carson, Trout, Lepine & Greenan Lakes Association in collaboration with WaterSheds Canada donated a Fresh Water Nature Discovery Kit to the library. The township also supported this initiative with a letter of support. There is opportunity for future kits as well.
- CNL is piloting a project to donate a 3D printer to local libraries on a rotating basis. We look forward to receiving the printer in our community in Fall 2025.
- We are collaborating with MVACL on two events in May, for Ontario's Community Living Month: ay 24 an author talk with Susan Dagenais, her book is *E is for Maggie*; and a movie night May 27 at the Legion, presenting the Disney film *Out of my Mind.*

	March	**April**
Library visits	892	963
Items checked out	1243	1163
Computer sessions	122	137
Personal devices	16	13
Memberships		
New MV*	15	16
New BLR	5	2
Renewals MV*	24	22
Renewals BLR	6	3
Interlibrary Loans		
Total	62	53
ILL borrowed	45	46
ILL lent	17	7
OverDrive/Libby		
ebooks	278	244
audiobooks	168	138
magazines	280	242
E-Resources		
World Travel	1	1
World Food	2	1
Mango Languages	52	10
Novelist	18	14
Kanopy	3	7
	15	24

Fiero Code	18	18
CBC Corner	0	0
*includes non-resident & summer		

10. Bill Houle motioned to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report for March and April 2025. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

March 2025

Balance Forward 78,021.44

Deposits	5,434.22
Expenses	24,530.73
Bank Balance	**58,924.93**
Outstanding	5,456.56
Book Balance	**64,381.49**
Growth Savings	8,696.53
	73,078.02
Term Deposit	25,643.06

April 2025

Balance Forward	58,924.93
Deposits	209,970.91
Expenses	187,794.63
Bank Balance	**81,101.21**
Outstanding	5,878.59
Book Balance	**86,979.80**
Growth Savings	94,740.79
	181,720.59
Term Deposit	25,643.06

11. New Business:
    a. No one was appointed chair for remainder of Board term. To be discussed again at the June 2025 meeting.
12. Bill Houle motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.
13. Upcoming Dates:
    Board Meetings: June 23, 2025 (presentation from Holly Hayes and Chela Breckon)
    No meetings in July and August 2025

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William Houle, Chair Natalie Barrington, Secretary