

**Minutes Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting  
April 24, 2023 at 3:30 pm (online/in-person)**

Present: Bill Houle, Mary Conway, Hanna Domagala, Claire Sullivan

Council representatives: Mary Blank

Staff: Natalie Barrington, CEO/Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Kevin Quade, Betty Kirby

1. Call to order at 3:35pm by Chair Bill Houle.
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. Mary Conway approved the agenda for the April 24, 2023 Board meeting, meeting minutes from the March 27, 2023 Board meeting, and April 4, 2023 Closed Board meeting with correction. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
5. Business arising from the minutes
  - a. Mary Conway approved policies GOV-06; HR-02; HR-06; HR-10; and BL-01 with amendments. Seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.
  - b. Strategic Planning: Hanna Domagala provided a brief update on the committee; their next meeting is May 15, 2023, when they will start to write the business case.
  - c. Trivia Night report: We had 14 teams participate and raised over \$1,000. Final tally to be calculated. There were many positive comments. Thank you cards will be distributed to the local businesses for donating door prizes.
6. Correspondence:
  - a. FOPL email for your information
  - b. Little Branches, Rural Roots registration deadline
  - c. John Yakabuski’s office: Bill Houle spoke to Adam Bloskie. It was agreed to invite Adam and John Yakabuski to the library to discuss fundraising restrictions and the vision for a new building. Board and strategic committee members should attend.
7. Bill Houle approved the Librarian’s Report for March 2023. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.
  - March Break was very successful. We had 32 children at the Monday BIAK Early ON drumming session; 46 children at the Barry’s Bay Let’s Talk Science workshop and 26 children in Palmer Rapids. We had 5 attendees to our board game night; this is a program we plan to hold regularly to attract youth, and to increase traffic on Thursday nights. The St. Patrick’s Day party hosted in collaboration with the township was well attended by at least a 100 people (children and adults). Brianna prepared four crafts for the party and the library brought cookies. The township organized drinks, a scavenger hunt with a prize, and live music. Lego Creators on Saturday also had a good turnout with 16 children. Brianna also prepared some take home craft kits for the library. The Let’s Talk Science kits went quickly as well.
  - Book club read *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo; w had 6 attendees at the meeting. Our next book is *The Art of Crash Landing* by Melissa DeCarlo.
  - We had an Easter/spring pom pom bunny wreath workshop on March 25. We had two youth participate with their parent. They had a great time and enjoyed the craft. We were hoping to attract

adults to this workshop, and increase traffic on a Saturday afternoon. We will continue to look for arts and craft activities to attract adults.

- We have a couple of high school students helping with shelving to earn community hours.
- On March 22, Natalie, Bill and Betty presented the budget to the MV Township. We requested a 2% increase in operating funds, and the capital expense for three new computers. We received our increase and capital funds.
- We had two public computers replaced. Patrons have been happy with the faster computers. The catalogue computer is now set up to be third public computer if needed. The third new computer will be replaced later in the spring, and we will investigate space and grant funding for another public computer.

8. Claire Sullivan approved the Financial Report for March 2023. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

Balance Forward	11,233.29
Deposits	21,081.41
Expenses	17,693.45
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>14,621.25</b>
Outstanding	3,542.99
<b>Book Balance</b>	<b>11,223.26</b>
Growth Savings	37,660.26
	<b>48,883.52</b>

9. New Business:

- a. Upgrade copier: Buske Office Equipment suggested we upgrade to a newer copier/printer as the current one is over 10 years old and required three repairs in March. The CEO will source three quotes from different vendors; and look into the purchase price vs lease; as well as possible grants.

10. Motion to adjourn by Hanna Domagala, seconded by March Conway at 4:35pm.

11. Next meeting date Monday, May 29, 2023 at 3:30 pm.

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William Houle, Chair

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Natalie Barrington, Secretary