

Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees
September 29, 2021
(Rescheduled from September 15, 2021)
Videoconference Meeting

Attendees: Patrick Andrews, Terri Cioppa, Rocky Divoll, Sandy Divoll, Diane Haight, Marque Moffett, Parker O'Mara, Tracy Orkin, Becky Pace, Sara Richman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Marque. The agenda was approved with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Parker. The minutes of the June meeting were amended and approved with a motion by Sandy and seconded by Pat.

Director's Report—Becky reported that the Library has now been open for 15 weeks with a slow but steady number of patrons utilizing the building. The new website for the Library was originally being designed by Stacey and continued to completion by her daughter Olivia who received credit for her work as an internship through Plattsburgh State. The website presents as a personable, professional and transparent view of the Library.

The Library Construction Grant application has been submitted to CEFLS and has been approved. The application will now be sent to the New York State Library System for approval. The requested amount is \$17,000 which will probably be a 50/50 split between the grant and our Library budget. So far Becky has spent about 95 hours preparing the application. The State Library System will notify us in July 2022 if we will receive the grant.

Becky indicated that the Peru Library budget for 2022 is set up as a “post pandemic budget” which is different than those from the past few years. The 2021 budget was very conservative financially due to the uncertainty of the future of the pandemic.

The Lake Placid Education Foundation Grant for \$1200 has been received. The Library has received grants and donations for \$7400 from fall 2020 to September 2021. About \$5600 was unsolicited donations from patrons.

T'chaka Sikelianos is a new volunteer for the Library and has done several jobs like raking around the building. The wrought iron railings at the front steps are the original for the building. T'chaka has now refurbished them to their original appearance.

President's Report—Marque will update the Board at the next meeting with any new suggestions.

Treasurer's Report—The balances in the accounts are checking--\$970.22, savings--\$5385.20 and money market--\$67,500.08. The PPP loan has been totally forgiven with Shelley completing the paper work for that application. The Family Program Expenses (line 5300) were utilized for three virtual art classes for children and a live Plein Air workshop for adults with all materials paid for through this line item. Sandy requested clarification of the amounts spent for Library Promotion (line 5160) and Office Expenses (line 5180) as they had increased significantly from the previous financial report. Becky will discuss this with Shelley but thought the extra costs were for pandemic supplies.

When the budget was prepared for 2021, it was considered an austerity budget since no one was certain of the future of the Library with the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic. For 2022 the

budget was prepared with consideration of the higher amount of donations and the funding from the Town of Peru and Peru Central School being the same as previously received.

Building/Maintenance Report—The water back flow will need to have an annual check as required by the Town of Peru. Becky reported that the air conditioning worked very well over the summer and now the heat pumps are being utilized. The electric provided by the solar panels are still in excess of the Library's usage. Rocky will be trimming a tree limb that is brushing against the Library building.

Subcommittee Status Reports--

Budget Committee: The budget committee, consisting of Parker, Becky and Shelley, is recommending the Library request an additional \$5000 from the Town of Peru to assist with the construction at the building. Although this request will probably not be granted, the Town Council will be aware that the Library will hopefully be having construction completed next year. The Library budget will be presented to the Town in October.

A motion was made by Tracy and seconded by Rocky to approve the proposed 2022 budget for the Library. The motion was passed. The budget will now have to be approved by the Town of Peru. (The Town Council will continue to have their budget meetings but aren't certain of the date for the Library's budget.)

Fundraising Committee: The committee, consisting of Marque, Tracy and Holly, feel it is difficult to consider any ideas for a few more months due to COVID. There will be an article included in the website suggesting financial donations will be welcomed for the Library.

Long-Range Plan Committee: No report.

Policy Committee: No report. New policies are considered as needed.

Old Business—The flag in front of the Library has been flown at half-staff or fully flown as determined by the Town's placement of their flag. This placement is determined by a mandate from the Federal or State government.

New Business—The CEFLS has presented all member libraries with the 2022 Direct Access Plan which basically is the same plan as last year. A motion was made by Rocky and seconded by Pat to accept this plan for 2022. The motion was passed.

Article IV and V, Sections 4.09 through 5.02 of the Library Bylaws were reviewed for clarification and corrections which were mostly grammar and punctuation. At the next meeting the Board will continue this process for Sections VI through VII.

Library Moment—When the Children's Room opened during the summer, Becky decided to have all the books about dinosaurs in an area at the bottom of the steps. At one point Becky overheard a mother asking her 4 year old child, "Would you like a book about a pterodactyl or a stegosaurus?" It was amazing that a child that age would be aware of the different dinosaurs.

The dates for the next two meetings are October 20th and November 17th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Sara.