Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees

October 14, 2026

Attendees: Patrick Andrews, Stacey Bousquet, Rocky Divoll, Diane Haight, Jeanette Kononan, Marque Moffett, Sara Richman, Melissa Whyman. Excused: Kris Minster, Parker O'Mara.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Marque at 7:00 p.m. The agenda was approved with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Pat. The minutes of the September meeting were approved with a motion by Theresa and seconded by Sara.

Public Comments—No members of the public were present.

Director's Report—Stacey provided statistics for September for the number of patrons, volunteers assisting in the Library and attendees at programs for children and adults. Stacey attended a monthly CEF meeting where their budget deficit was discussed. To balance their budget CEF will eliminate several special collections that are circulated throughout the system but will continue with the large print, audiobooks and DVD collections. She also attended the CEFDA meeting and completed a webinar about the board and director relationship. Stacey attended a Noon Kiwanis Club meeting to receive their donation to the Library for the Sensory Station. The Great Giveback for food donations will be held this month.

Stacey has hired Layo Properties, who currently collect trash and do snow removal for the Library, to also maintain our lawn at a fee of $30 every two weeks. During this month there will be training at the North Country Disaster Hub located at St. Augustine Parish Center on services and resources for our community.

Upcoming programs at the Library include:

- Mah Jongg instruction
- Tuesday Movie Club, sponsored by PBS, movie and discussion
- Author Talk by Bethany Adams
- Halloween Craft and treat for children
- WITS workout sponsored by the Senior Center

Treasurer's Report—The balances for the accounts are checking--$7,573.76, money market--$64,331.96 and CD--$27,221.88. The total for all accounts is $99,127.60.

The Library received the $20,000 collected in May through the Peru Central School budget vote. A $200 grant from CEF has been received for our summer reading program.

Building/Maintenance Report—Rocky has restrung the flag in the flagpole at the Library. He also checked on the mini-splits that are part of the Library heating system.

Old Business—Jeannette reported that the "Friends of the Library" group will be organized in January with a possible adjustment of the name so there would be no confusion with an earlier group with a similar name.

New Business—The Policy Committee (Stacey was not present as the discussion did not involve the Library Director) met to discuss criteria and procedures involved in adding new members to the Board as well as length of terms for those already on the Board. It was suggested that a brief resume and answers to open-ended questions about a person's interest in the Library should be required of any prospective Board members. Marque suggested that any comparisons to other boards' procedures should be done with boards of libraries that are created as an "association library" and publicly funded. Also criteria should be in line with New York State Library guidelines. A report to the Board should be made for our November meeting in case any changes would have to be made in our Bylaws which can only be made at the Annual Meeting in January.

The pavers in the Library sidewalk need to be cleaned and have sand added between them. There are some that are broken or missing that also need to be replaced. Stacey had quotes from two companies: Hebert's Lawn Care and Snow Plow for $1500 and Gravelle Enterprises at a cost of $1440. A motion was made by Rocky and seconded by Theresa to hire Gravelle Enterprises to complete this project. The motion passed.

Committee Reports—

Policy Committee—The Open Meeting policy previously adopted by the Board had to be replaced by the NYS Open Meeting Law. This change has been reflected on the Library website in the introduction to the policy.

Fundraising Committee—The "Spirit of Peru 2027" Library calendars are available now at a cost of $20. Mel will be at the Peru Town Market on Sunday to sell calendars there. About 30 calendars have been sold so far.

The online auction of donations from local businesses will be the same format as last year with the time for viewing the items November 8th-13th and bidding November 13th-22nd.

Long Range Committee—The Community Survey for the Library was conducted in June with 137 responses. Most of the comments were very positive. A report about the Survey will be made to the Board.

Budget Committee—No report.

The dates for the next meetings are November 11th and December 9th. The December meeting will also have a social time after the meeting with snacks provided by the Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm with a motion by Theresa and seconded by Rocky.