Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees

September 9, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order by President Parker at 6:56 pm. The agenda was approved with a motion by Pat and seconded by Rocky. The minutes of the August meeting were approved with a motion by Marque and seconded by Sara.

Public Comments—No members of the public were present.

Director's Report—Stacey provided statistics for August for the number of patrons, volunteers assisting in the Library, attendees at programs for children and adults as well as at the Jackie Sabourin Celebration of Life. In June 82 children signed up for the summer reading challenge and, of those, 20 turned in logs with 6 being chosen as prize winners. The current art exhibit is by Justin Gunnell but the exhibit for October is not definite yet. Stacey will contact the artists for the November to January show to determine if their artwork could be available for October.

The Peru Lions Club and the Kiwanis Noon Club have each donated $500 for the new "Sensory Station" in the Library. The Lake Placid Education Fund has awarded a grant for $1200 to the Library to host art receptions throughout the year and for an art project for 8-11 year olds to showcase art in the Tween Lounge. To further the long-term goal of accessibility for all, Stacey is applying for a grant to purchase several AV items including a large screen, projector, mike and auditory system and podium. Currently the Library uses a CEF projector.

On September 17th Stacey will attend the Kiwanis Noon Club meeting to receive their donation for the Library. Due to Apple Fest on September 19th, the Library will be closed and Stacey will visit other local libraries to view their services.

Upcoming programs at the Library include:

- WITS workout sponsored by the Senior Center
- Storytime with Granny Apple
- Fraud Seminar by TD Bank
- Author Talk by Mike and Stephanie Battisti
- History Talk by Don Wickman about the Champlain Valley in 1776
- Soil Health Information provided by the Master Gardners

Treasurer's Report—The balances for the accounts are checking--$7,457.66, money market--$48,423.00 and CD--$27,150.47. The total for all accounts is $83,031.13. Sara renewed the CD at TD Bank for 6 months at 3%.

Building/Maintenance Report—Rocky has been dealing with a shoulder problem and plans to repair the shutters as soon as he is able to do it. The water backflow testing required by the

Town of Peru has been completed. Pat suggested to Rocky that the rope on the American Flag outside the Library needs to be replaced.

Old Business—The Library 2027 budget has been adjusted to provide 3% raises for Stacey and Allison and will have to have the payroll taxes line modified to reflect this change. A motion was made by Theresa and seconded by Rocky to approve the 2027 budget. The motion was approved. Stacey will send a copy of our budget to the Town of Peru.

A volunteer group is being organized within the Library to assist with programs, the book sale, fundraisers, and other times that assistance is needed. Unlike the "Friends of the Library" that had been in existence previously, this group will not initiate any program ideas or do fundraising beyond that organized by the Board. A name for the group has yet to be chosen but has about 12 members at this time. Jeannette will be the chairperson for this ad hoc group and will be joining the Fundraising Committee.

New Business—The Board is considering guidelines for selecting new board members as this topic has not been discussed previously. Marque spoke to Anja from CEF who suggested looking at gaps with current board such as demographic differences, ages and previous experiences. She also suggested that a prospective board member provide a biography to the Board. There was a discussion about having these guidelines become a plan or a policy. The Policy Committee will be meeting in October for further consideration. It was noted that a person could volunteer for specific jobs, especially maintenance type, and not be a board member.

Stacey provided a Circulation Report for the first two quarters for 2026 in comparison with the information for 2022 through 2025. Different options within the Library's options for circulation were discussed.

Committee Reports—

Policy Committee—No Report.

Fundraising Committee—The proofs for the 2027 Peru Library Calendar were reviewed and ready for printing. The calendars will be available about September 24th and will cost $20 each. The Committee will be preparing the online auction probably in November.

Long Range Planning Committee—The committee will be meeting soon to review the responses to the questionnaires completed by members of the Peru community earlier in the summer.

Budget Committee—No Report.

The dates for the next meetings are October 14th and November 11th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm with a motion by Pat and seconded by Sara.