Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees

August 12, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order by President Parker at 6:59 pm. The agenda was amended to add an item under New Business—Restart the Friends of the Library group. The amended agenda was approved with a motion by Pat and seconded by Theresa. The minutes of the May meeting were approved with a motion by Marque and seconded by Rocky.

Public Comments—No members of the public were present

Director's Report—Stacey provided statistics for June and July for the number of patrons, attendees at programs for children and adults as well as story hour, participants at the book sale, NHS volunteers weeding gardens and young people involved in the summer reading challenge. A new book vendor has been obtained, Author's Note, who serves about 50 libraries in the state of New York with a current discount of 27% for their books. Stacey applied for grants from the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club to develop a "Sensory Station" in the Library. She also applied for a grant from CEF for the summer reading program supplies. On August 15th the reading logs will be due from students involved in the reading challenge with prizes for all grade levels with a "Craft-n-Snack" time on the 18th. The Library Book Club will meet on September 8th.

Treasurer's Report—The balances for the accounts are checking--$6,920.25, money market--$53,307.21 and CD--$27,083.68. The total for all accounts is $87,311.14. The CD will need to be renewed by August 23rd. Sara will consider the best rates for 12 month, 9 month and 6 month options when making this decision.

Building and Maintenance Report—Rocky has been cleaning up debris around the outside of the building.

Old Business—The Library has bought a battery operated vacuum cleaner to be utilized at times between the regular cleaning service visits.

New Business—The budget for 2027 was presented by the Budget Committee. No action was taken as it was decided to have an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting.

Jackie Sabourin, past officer and active supporter of the Peru Library, passed away recently, and her family wanted donations made in her memory to reflect her passion in the field of art. The art gallery section of the Library will now be named the Jackie Sabourin Art Gallery with a plaque noting the name. Also Jackie wanted every person to have the opportunity to participate in some form of visual arts so there will be a "Jackie Sabourin Art Series" of free classes to be held at the Library. On Saturday, August 15th, there will be a reception hosted by the Sabourin family at the Library in recognition of Jackie. A Nurse's Honor Court will be held during that time as Jackie also was a registered nurse.

Theresa suggested that professional lawn care and landscaping companies be hired for the Library property. Previously volunteers and Stacey and her husband have been doing these jobs, but it was decided that there is a need for other alternatives. Any quotes for these services will be discussed at the September meeting.

Jeannette offered a suggestion of starting a Friends of the Library group, not a 501(3)c, but a group of volunteers who could be asked to assist with programs and fund-raising as needed with a Board member to organize each activity. She agreed to chair this group and was invited to join the fund-raising committee. More information about this group will be discussed at the September meeting.

Marque will pursue some options to be utilized in recruiting new Board members and provide information at the September meeting.

Committee Reports—

Policy Committee—No Report.

Fund Raising Committee—The committee has reviewed the photos for the 2027 Peru Library Calendar. The calendar will cost $20 with 100 copies being ordered. They will be sold at the Peru Town Market and maybe at Apple Fest.

Long Range Planning Committee—The Community Survey was completed with 137 responses, both online and paper copies. The results will be reviewed in September.

Budget Committee—No Report.

The dates for the next meetings are September 9th and October 14th.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:20 pm. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Pat.