

Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees
January 19th, 2022
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 7:30 pm by President Marque. The agenda was approved with a motion by Sandy and seconded by Tracy. The minutes of the December meeting were approved with a motion by Sara and seconded by Terri.

Director's Report—A circulation report for 2021 has previously been sent to the Board members. Some notable statistics were as follows: the circulation for 3rd quarter 2021 was double that of 3rd quarter 2020, the yearly circulation for 2021 was three quarters of the 2019 circulation and the number of borrowers for 2021 was three quarters of those in 2019. Also the digital borrowers has increased in 2021 which is an alternative means of utilizing library services.

Donations from patrons have been very generous with a total of \$1200.

The Plattsburgh Rotary Club has a special grant "Small Gifts" created for enhancement of area businesses. The maximum award is \$500. Becky applied for and received \$500 from this grant. The concept for the application was to create a seating area outside the side door of the Library with tables and benches for patrons to utilize for socializing. The Board congratulates Becky for applying for the grant and the concept of providing a new opportunity for the community to use the Library facility.

The Potters Guild Show and the painting exhibit by Linda Mussen was very successful with their sales for a total of \$3139. As the Library receives 25% of the total sales for providing the location for the show, \$775 has been received as our portion.

A question about the record of books borrowed by a patron was explained that once the books are returned, the system deletes that record. Also a question about the proposed interconnection of CEFLS with two other library systems was raised. Even though a grant was received by CEFLS to support this addition, this proposal will not materialize as personnel has changed within the other systems.

President's Report—The Library Board will be recognizing the services of our volunteers, Linda Jones and Marie Zurlo in the children's room and Steve Collier who shovels the snow on the sidewalks. Marque will provide cards for members to sign and will purchase gift cards from local businesses for each person. Board members are asked to sign the cards and make a donation, if possible, by February 10th.

The Adirondack Foundation has a grant program “Generous Acts” to provide funding for promoting community unity by nonprofits. Marque suggested that this could be an opportunity for the Library to receive support for the community survey that we have proposed to be conducted. The deadline for the grant is February 1st which could be difficult to accomplish for this year. If that cannot be done for this year, an application can be pursued next year.

Anja has contacted Becky about the “Big Read” grant that selects a book, on a specific topic of interest, to be distributed throughout CEFLS for reading and discussion through book clubs and other groups. There will also be community events involving the topic of the book. Becky has been asked to complete the art section of the grant.

Treasurer’s Report—The balances in the accounts are checking--\$3,461.86, savings--\$970.29 and money market--\$67,616.51. A letter has been sent to the Town of Peru for the signed agreement of their funding.

Building/Maintenance Report—The tree trimmer who has volunteered to remove a branch near the Library building will probably be completing the job in February when the ground is frozen.

Subcommittee Status Reports—No reports. There will be discussion with each committee at the February meeting.

Old Business—No report.

New Business—No report.

Library Moment—A home schooled student had volunteered in the children’s room of the Library for several years before her family moved outside this country. Becky received a Christmas card from her that is now attending university in Edinboro, Scotland and manages two small bookstores. In her card she offered that her interest in reading is connected to her volunteer time at the Library.

The dates for the next two meetings are February 16th and March 23rd.

A motion was made by Sandy and seconded by Rocky to go enter Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

A motion was made by Rocky and seconded by Tracy to leave Executive Session at 9:05 pm.

A motion was made by Pat and seconded by Sandy to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.