

Peterborough Town Library Board of Trustees

**Draft Minutes
February 16,
2023**

Meeting called to order: 5:31 pm

Trustees Present: Tina Kriebel (Chair), Karen Struthers (Treasurer), John Lawler, Peggy Van Valkenburgh, Eric McCall (alternate), Kristen Ramey (alternate)

Others Present: Corinne Chronopoulos (Library Director)

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting approved. KS, TK, motion passed.

Motion to approve December's Treasurer's Report JL, PV Motion passed.

Discussion about how to reinvest funding in the unbudgeted account. Approximately \$204,000 is available to reinvest. This includes 195,000 left over from the library project which originally was disbursed from unrestricted Trust funds. Discussion about interest rates and best place to put the funds at this time. CC confirmed that there is probably little chance the library will need funding for any purpose outside of operating costs and capital improvements which would be funded by the 1833 fund. CC asked if it was better to build that endowment fund up. JL expressed concern that the market is still volatile. EM commented that it depends on how the funds are managed. TK suggested we invest in different timed Cds and then invest them as they come due to spread out the risk. KS will research different options for CDs and review with Board at next meeting.

Motion that Kristen Ramey be authorized to vote for Laura Hanson, who is absent. TK, JL, Motion passed.

Director's Report Highlights

- Facility issues include curved portico door repairs and cooling issues in 1833 Room.
- FY 2024 budget hearing was quick. No substantial questions by budget committee.
- Spanish club is great success.
- It is our 190th birthday in April.
- Encouraging youth team to place more consistent book orders. Youth team has also attended several professional development workshops this month.
- Teen cupcake wars went well.
- Lots of outreach happening including River Center, Cornucopia, MAXT, League of Women Voters, ESVOC, and Peterborough Players.

- FOL to sponsor outdoor concert series.
- January adult programs well-attended
- Created new process for patron requests.
- Finished recataloging the nonfiction DVDs

Motion to accept the Director's Report PV, JL Motion passed.

1833 Society Update

No update.

Old Business

None

New Business

Trustee terms

Reviewed terms. Those running for the Board can put their name in starting March 23rd. John Lawlor will not run again, as he is moving to Dublin. Peggy will run again. Alternates expire in May at Town Meeting and will need to be reappointed.

Sound system

Sound System quote from Upstream Sound presented for \$3,897. The quote includes two Bluetooth/battery speakers, four mics, mixer, cables, stands, and cases. Two of the mics are wireless and come with Lav mics and the other two are standard Shure mics. Chronopoulos explained the system would be used for events in the 1833 room or on the terrace. For example, a system was needed for the debates hosted this year. The system will be available to rent but this will need to be well-thought out. All staff will be trained to use it.

Motion to approve the Sound System quote and pay for it out of the 1833 Fund. TK, KL, motion passes.

Donation

A donation was received from the estate of Ann Thompson. She does not have any children and Chronopoulos is working with the estate to understand how best to recognize the gift. The donor intended the funds to go to the library project. The Board decided the best place for the funds would be in the PTL Endowment fund so that it would eventually help the library future needs.

Motion to accept the gift of \$25,000 and invest it in the PTL Endowment fund. KS, TK motion passes.

Lost Book

Chronopoulos described a recent issue of possible censorship. A patron borrowed a book and did not return it. Based on the letter, it appeared they misplaced it but perhaps intentionally.

They sent along payment for the book and an additional donation to buy better books on the subject.

Chronopoulos described how many libraries are facing similar situations where patrons check books out and do not return them as an act of censorship. She was concerned about the precedent of this case and had a productive conversation with the library staff about the incident. The staff agreed the book should be replaced and to let other patrons have the freedom to check out the book, discuss it with colleagues (as the patron described they did), and decide on the merit of the book for themselves which is the natural cycle of free access to information.

Discussion followed. JL expressed agreement with allowing people to check a book out and decide for themselves. All present agreed with decision to replace book. TK asked Chronopoulos to follow regular procedure to send thank you note when a donation is made. EM clarified that the letter did not stipulate how the funds were spent but used informal language in the letter.

Other Business

Tree

Peggy Van Valkenburgh brought up the need to care for the crab apple tree on the portico lawn. She requested a quote from Dan Trembley. The cost would be \$880 for a plant health treatment to include two bark health treatments and Cabistat growth regulator. He would donate the \$760 fee for pruning if we do the treatments. If we just do the pruning, he would charge the \$760.

JL stated it was a lot for one tree. EM asked if this required us to do the maintenance annually or can we just do it one time? PV agreed to go back to Dan Tremblay and ask a few more questions. PV will also ask around for other possible companies who may be able to treat the tree.

Motion to adjourn made at 6:25 pm TK, PV

Next meeting: Thursday, March 16th 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Corinne Chronopoulos

