

Putnam Valley Library Trustee Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2023

Trustees present: Jodi Carlson, Ginger Lefurgy, Beth Appel, Terry Raskyn, Leslie Martin, Marilyn Power

Trustees absent: Janet Dolot, Cori Madrid

Other Attendees: Katherine Reilly, Director of the Library; Michael Bennett, President of Friends of the Library

1. Minutes for the March meeting were unanimously approved. Leslie moved and Ginger seconded the motion to approve.

2. Treasurer's report: We are currently on budget for expenses and revenue.

3. On-going Business:

We discussed our policy for use of the community room, including our rate structure. Not-for-profit groups may reserve the room during library hours for free, if it is not being used for library events. Community service events after library hours may be either free or charged a small fee at the Board's discretion.

We considered fees and policies for political events or group meetings, as well as private events. Insurance would be required, with both notice and extra insurance if alcohol would be served. Kathy is drafting a policy to be formalized.

Safety and emergency procedures for the library are in the process of being updated.

The landscaping contract is being reviewed and formalized, with a more detailed job description. The library will request a credit on next year's snow removal contract, given the lack of snow this winter. The library will purchase a battery-powered leaf blower to improve both air quality and noise level.

The library is seeking contract bids for installation of the skylight and repair of the surrounding roof.

The Board discussed the up-coming 259 vote on the library budget and formulated plans to provide access to the power-point both in person and via zoom. A rally to support the library and urge patrons to vote will be held at the library on May 15 from 3 until 5 PM.

4. New Business

The Director reported there has been an increase in the use of library services, both in person and via ebooks and audiobooks accessed through Overdrive. In addition, a range of programs for children and adults are being offered, including a puppet-making session, bi-weekly story time, and instruction on beatboxing and body percussion. Chess club, knitting, and mahjong have

consistent attendance. The library is getting ready for summer reading programs. The “library of things” has been expanded to include a seed library.

The tree and fence repair are proceeding, in communication with the town and the insurance company.

Beth moved and Jodi seconded approval of a resolution to exceed the tax cap in the event of passage of the §259 vote. The resolutions passed unanimously.

Whereas, the adoption of the 2023 budget for the Putnam Valley Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Valley Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2023 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on April 17, 2023.

5. Friends of the Library report

Michael reported that many Friends have responded to the request for renewal of membership.

The Friends continue to provide museum and event passes to library patrons, including voucher for the American Museum of Natural History.

Up-coming events include a “joyful jumble” on June 4, a possible murder mystery event in the fall, and a dinner theater event in the summer.

The next Board meeting will be May 16 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Power