

Putnam Valley Library Board Meeting and Annual Meeting  
October 16, 2023

Trustees Present: Terry Raskyn, Ginger Lefurgy, Jodi Carlson, Marilyn Power, Joe Ferraro, Leslie Martin, Tom Pendleton

Trustees Absent: Cori Madrid

Staff Present: Amina Chaudhri

Guests Present: Patricia Grove, Leo Alves, Gail Bennett, Michael Bennett, Jon Bennett, Gabrielle Del Pozzo Finkel, Isabelle Molle

1. The minutes from the September meeting were approved unanimously. Jodi moved and Leslie seconded the motion.
2. Treasurer's report: We still have not received funds from the new 259 levy, which is due in October. Our expenditure for Buildings and Grounds is over budget due to necessary tree removal and repair, and the installation of the skylight. Otherwise the budget is generally on target. Marilyn moved and Ginger seconded approval of the Report; approval was unanimous.
3. Director's report: The library's program offerings have included very popular Soundbath experiences, weekly math tutoring, and expanded craft sessions that will soon include any fiber related art. Defensive Driving will be offered November 4th.

The library continues to expand partnerships with community groups and organizations, including the Mental Health Association of Putnam which is offering programs for youth and the Prevention Council of Putnam which gave Narcan training to staff and community members.

The Peekskill and Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association continues to meet monthly at the library and to offer educational programs as well as assistance for anyone seeking licensure.

The library began co-hosting a local chapter of the Sewing Guild of America, and continues to partner with Tompkins Corners and Warner Library to reduce costs of programs and increase attendance.

Programs for children and youth continue to be popular. The pumpkin painting event attracted 102 participants and was a great success. Toddler Story Time is offering a six-week series about emotions. Demand for toddler programs continues to be very strong. The annual Young Author writing workshops attracted highly motivated writers and resulted in a shelf of completed books to be viewed on the library's main floor.

Library infrastructure and services:

The library has moved to a Verizon VOIP system for phones and internet. The contract for winter snow removal has been signed with Zaldivar's Landscaping. The library has received updated quotes from Robin Aire and Aspen for our transition to a heat pump heating and cooling system, for which we are likely qualified for a NYSEG rebate as well. We can proceed once we hear from New York State regarding approval of the change of scope for the construction grant.

Glassolutions installed our new skylight on September 22, and we all agree it is beautiful and floods the library with light.

Lussier Tree Service removed trees that were too close on the hill behind the library, as well as two that were leaning over the brook. Amina is working on two grants, one that could assist in replacing aging computers and printers, and one that would fund an Energy Use Audit.

Personnel: The library has advertised for a Children's Librarian or Library Assistant, and has been receiving applications.

4. Friends of the Library report: Michael reported that the Friends supplied an impressive 80 pumpkins for the successful pumpkin painting event. They have arranged for the library to provide the service of selling EZ Pass tags, with the library gaining a small fee from each sale.

5. Old business: Leslie has been continuing her heroic work compiling and updating library policy. We discussed and approved ten of the policies at this meeting. When we complete this process, the policy document will be posted on our web page.

6. New Business: Our Directors and Officers Insurance policy needed to be renewed, at a cost of \$1,078 for the year. Marilyn moved and Leslie seconded approval of the expenditure; approval was unanimous.

7. The Board adjourned for a short Executive Session regarding personnel, before returning for the annual election of the Trustees to the Board. Leslie Martin, Joe Ferraro, and Gabrielle Del Pozzo Finkel were elected for five year terms beginning in January, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Power