

Smiths Falls Public Library Board Minutes

Date: April 23, 2024
Location: Temporary Library
Time: 6:36 p.m.
Adjournment: 7:54 p.m.

In attendance: A. Guerin J. Miller
 C. Mariona R. Cauley
 M. Gallagher S. McLean Knapp
 C. Cummings M. Murphy
 S. Martin
 A. Foster, CEO/Chief Librarian

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Agenda / Item / Issue	Discussion / Action
1. Call to order	A. Guerin called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgement	The partial Land Acknowledgement Statement for the Town of Smiths Falls was read by A. Guerin.
3. Approval of the Agenda	Motion: S. McLean Knapp moved the approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by S. Martin. Carried.
4. Minutes of March 26, 2024	Motion: It was moved by M. Gallagher and seconded by M. Murphy that the minutes of March 26, 2024 be accepted as circulated. Carried.
5. Disclosure of Monetary Interest	None.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	None.
7. Correspondence	FOPL sent a news release about increased funding for First Nations Public Libraries from the provincial government. It is good that one of FOPL's asks was successful, especially as the number of First Nations libraries in Ontario has dropped significantly since COVID.
8. Librarian's Report and Statistics	The Librarian's Report for March was summarized by A. Foster. The month was much quieter than in 2023 but that was largely due to much lower capacity for March Break programs in our temporary location. There was overwhelming interest in our small number of eclipse glasses and they were gone quickly. The library has generally been either busy or dead with little in-between; with the exception of right after opening and

program times there has been on discernable pattern. E-circulation has been strong and the hold of holds and average wait times on OverDrive/Libby keep increasing. There was also a discussion about the issue of the increasing numbers of food insecure people in this town. We're not receiving the Ottawa Citizen as there is no carrier available right now. We've increased efforts to encourage people who aren't great on their feet to use the back door after an older woman fell; luckily, she was uninjured. One-on-meetings have been much more feasible given the configuration of the temporary location. Take-and-make kits have been very popular. Book club and Teen Night attendance was decent. Story and baby times were well-attended. March Break programming went well though some programs had considerable no-shows despite reminders the day prior. The SFDA was offline all month but local history tasks continued.

9. Committee Updates

Finance:

The financial report ending March 31, 2024 was presented. The board liked the format of this report.

Fundraising:

S. Martin noted that the committee has met several times. Discussion about how to get the word out has occurred. C. Cummings noted that more people need to be involved in fundraising efforts and it would be a huge help if everyone asked even one potential donor. He also noted that photo ops are helpful for soliciting further donations. There is a Google Doc where donation efforts are being tracked and should be consulted to avoid duplicating efforts. M. Murphy noted that she attended the town's grant workshop and found it very helpful; she is now looking at another 15 grants to apply to. There was a discussion about how oversubscribed many grants are now. S. Martin noted that the dance/music trivia/painting are still a go for June 15.

Policy and Governance:

Possible meeting dates will be sent out to committee Members soon.

Property Committee:

C. Cummings said that the renovation projection is going smoothly and is on schedule. There have been lots of emails and the savings found so far have been quite good. However, costs for flooring and moving power are not yet known. Cornices were found in a brick wall and are somewhat weathered which leads him to believe that the back addition to the building was

circa the 1950s. They will be used to replace damaged ones on the rest of the building.

10. Municipal Report

J. Miller noted that the tender for the water tower was awarded to the only supplier as was the tender for the first phase of the George Street reconstruction which is needed as it is an old street with much that needs to be fixed underground. Staff was directed to proceed with work on allowing backyard chickens. She also attended the grant writing workshop. The Town of Lincoln's resolution asking for more funding for libraries and museums from the provincial government will be brought forward to a future Committee of the Whole.

11. Montague Report

S. Martin had a great meeting the Township's CAO and Roads Superintendent at the school; they discussed how to have more involvement between the Township and the school including student input. The story trail, indigenous learning space, beach volleyball and more are coming. There are some wetlands that can't be utilized. Lots of programs such as paint nights, trivia, and darts are continuing in Montague.

12. New Business

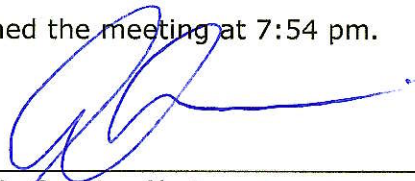
M. Murphy noted that the Friends, along with the Legion and the Harmony Club, gave books away earlier in the day (World Book Day) to grade 1 to 4 students at four local schools. They are also still busy with the breakfast program at Duncan J. Schoular. She is planning to see if more can be added to the Friends book sale on June 8.

15. Date of Next Meeting

May 28 at 6:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment

A. Guerin adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.



A. Guerin, Chair



A. Foster, Secretary