

Philmont Public Library
101 Main Street
Philmont, NY 12565

August 4, 2021

The regular August meeting of the Philmont Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Faith Benson. Also present were Vice President Barbara Sagal, Chief Financial Officer Dave Bolevice, Secretary Mindy Gardner, and Director Tobi Farley. Member Nat Drake was absent. Village Liaison Representative Jason Detzel left early.

Visitors in Attendance: Mark Wilson, Columbia County's representative to MHLS board of trustees. He is also a board member of the Kinderhook Library.

Village Liaison Report (Detzel):

Detzel answered a question about state funds given to Philmont, and whether a portion of that amount might be requested for Library needs. He advised that some has already been earmarked, but that we should make our request for a portion of the remainder to the Village Board. A general discussion about community composting workshops followed, then Detzel left the meeting due to another Village commitment.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: A **MOTION** to accept the July 2021 minutes with discussed change was made by Bolevice, seconded by Sagal, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence (Gardner):

Gardner reported that she has an outstanding Thank You note to send, and requested Farley to forward any other pending correspondence needs to her.

President's Report (Benson):

- Benson reported that she has been recruiting people for "Community Conversations" to gather public input for the Library's Long Range Plan.
- Benson, along with Farley and Sagal, attended NYS Assembly Member Didi Barrett's press conference to thank her for her continued support of libraries. She announced a gift of \$5,000 to all libraries in her district, and an extra \$5,000 for Philmont Public Library specifically due to our community resiliency work.

Financial Report (Bolevice):

Farley reported that the Philmont Rotary Club has disbanded. Club bylaws stipulate that monies in the group treasury must be disbursed locally. They very kindly gave us \$500. In addition, we have received financial aid from the county, money that previously was announced as unavailable due to the pandemic.

Philmont Public Library
101 Main Street
Philmont, NY 12565

Library Director's Report (Farley):

- Program Participation: 60 people attended Board Member Nat Drake's cello ensemble concert, yet we only had 2 families at our StoryCrafters event due to bad weather. 10-30 people, on average, attend the online programs via Zoom.
- Community Resilience: We now have a Narcan nasal spray kit at the library, and are a Medication drop-off location. Tobi reached out to local police and the county Board of Health to let them know they can bring prescription drugs to library for safe disposal.
- Building Maintenance: Mayor Johnson went down with a structural engineer and discovered the boiler urgently needs to be replaced. By having the Friends of Philmont Public Library apply for the discounted energy audit, the cost went from \$3,000 to \$100. They will present their findings to us at our next regular Board meeting on Sept 1, 2021.
- Staffing: Barry Marshall from StoryCrafters may consider coming back as a Board Member. He was President when the Library moved to its present location. Farley thanked Bolevice for training as a volunteer substitute. The library needs to hire for Saturday and Wednesday afternoons.
- Grants: The 11 libraries of the Columbia County Library Association (CCLA) have been informed that the 20% cut given by the county supervisors may be available to be reinstated. We are discussing possible ways to use the funds. \$5,000 of Assemblymember Barrett's grant will be going to fixing up the shed for the tool library, for garbage/recycling/compost bins, and for the Seed library.
- Outreach: Farley requested a list of 5-10 people from all Board Members to invite to the "Community Conversations" meetings. The ALA grant only requires one meeting but we should try to have several.

Policy Committee Report (Benson):

The Policy Committee is actively drafting a Long-Range Plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees when the document is complete. The Community Conversations will contribute to the Plan, as will decisions about the potential building construction and maintenance.

Art Committee Report (Drake):

None

Building Committee Report (Bolevice):

Farley will set up a call with Mayor Johnson to discuss the boiler.

Old Business

Philmont Public Library
101 Main Street
Philmont, NY 12565

A discussion was held regarding requiring the public and staff to continue to wear masks while in the library building. A **MOTION** to continue to require masking in the building was made by Gardner. Sagal seconded the motion. All members voted Yay except for Bolevice who felt that we should follow the County Board of Health recommendation, and voted Nay. The **MOTION** carried.

New Business

The Board discussed the reconfiguration of certain areas of the library while the building is having structural and heating work done.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Bolevice, seconded by Benson and unanimously approved at 8:22 PM.

The next Philmont Public Library Board meeting will be held on August 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

GARDNER - Write a thank you letter to PB Inc.

FARLEY - Send Gardner additional correspondence needs; set up meeting with Mayor Johnson and Building Committee Board Members.

ALL - Send Farley names of participants to invite to future Community Conversations.