



Haldimand County Public Library
1-117 Forest Street East
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MINUTES

of a meeting of the Haldimand County Public Library Board
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Cayuga Library, Program Room, 5:30 pm

Present: Linda Van Ede, Chair
Pat MacDonald, Vice-Chair
Malcolm Millar
Jo Geary
Paul Diette, CEO
Rob Shirton, Councilor
Regrets: Mary Kent

1. Call to Order

Linda Van Ede called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

21-13 **MOVED** by Jo Geary, **SECONDED** by Pat MacDonald
THAT the Agenda be adopted as circulated with the addition of item 8.3. : *Jarvis Branch Vehicular Damage.*
CARRIED.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of previous Minutes

21-14 **MOVED** by Jo Geary, **SECONDED** by Malcolm Millar
THAT the Minutes of February 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED.

5. Staff and Board Reports

5.1 *Cash Flow Statement, February 2021*

21-15 **MOVED** by Pat MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Jo Geary
THAT the Summary Cash Flow statement be accepted.
CARRIED.

5.2 *Monthly Activity Report, February 2021*

The reports were received as information.

5.3 *New Cayuga Branch Project*

No new business.

5.4 *New Hagersville Branch*

No new business.

6. Business Arising

6.1 *Board Member Vacancy*

On February 16, 2021 Haldimand County Council adopted the following resolution:

1. THAT Report CLS-01-2021 Appointment to the Public Library Board be received;
2. AND THAT Memorandum CLS-M01-2021 Addendum to Report CLS-01-2021 Appointment to the Public Library Board be received and remain confidential;
3. AND THAT Grace Main be appointed to the Haldimand County Public Library Board for the term ending November 14, 2022 or until their successor is appointed.

A retired resident of Caledonia, Grace Main served decades in the education sector, was a member of the Library Board in Nunavut (Pond Inlet) from 2009-2010, and brings to the table a wealth of experience in organization, management, public outreach and strategic planning. Our Board is excited to welcome her as its newest member. The CEO conducted a Board Orientation session for Grace on Tuesday, March 16th. She was provided with a copy of the Policy Manual, an overview of our library system's background, highlights of our system's recent challenges and future goals, and a copy of the last Strategic Plan.

6.2 Electronic Communications Consent Link

The topic of emailed return reminders (prior to due dates), overdue notices and event announcements to patrons was discussed at the February 25, 2021 meeting. The CEO confirmed that, according to Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASTL), consent from potential recipients is required prior to distribution of emails which contain promotional content and that Haldimand County had established a consent system online, using the MailChimp program, for all divisions. The CEO provided in the Board package a link to the consent form, as requested by Pat MacDonald:

<https://www.haldimandcounty.ca/connect/#1540244698873-4ffab22b-8d23>

7. Standing Items

7.1 Strategic Plan

No new business. A copy of the most recent Strategic Plan, 2015-2017, will be included in the next Board package to be reviewed as part of the essential planning process.

7.2 Policies Review: BL-1, BL-2, BL-3 and BL-4

Governance by-laws BL-1 Statement of Authority, BL-2 Composition of the Board, BL-3 Terms of Reference of the Officers and BL-4 Terms of Reference of the Committees were reproduced in the Board package for review purposes. No changes or addendums were recommended by the CEO. Board members, however, proposed that Section 3 of BL-3 Terms of Reference of the Officers, CEO Responsibilities, be expanded to include additional roles currently being performed.

21-16 MOVED by Rob Shirton, **SECONDED** by Pat MacDonald

THAT the Section 3 of Governance By-law 3, Terms of Reference of the Officers be appended to include the statements:

- *Prepares, monitors and presents budgets to the Board and Council and administers financial transactions throughout the year in cooperation with municipal Finance Division staff*

CARRIED.

7.3 Reporting Requirements

No new business.

8. New Business

8.1 Dr. Seuss Titles

In late February, Dr. Seuss Enterprises, the subsidiary publisher of Dr. Seuss titles, announced that after working with a panel of experts and educators, it had decided to cease publication and licensing of the following titles: *McElligot's Pool*, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, *On Beyond Zebra!*, *Scrambled Eggs Super!*, and *The Cat's Quizzer*. This decision was made because it was determined that these titles contain images or references many consider racist or prejudiced.

The Library owns copies of all but the first title listed. Reproduced in the Board package were images of the controversial references and pictures from the Dr. Seuss titles no longer being published.

In late 2020, the Haldimand County Public Library Board passed the following motion:

20-37 THAT Policy OP-04, Collection Development, be amended to include the text **"The Library acknowledges that some materials, particularly books and movies produced generations ago, include negative descriptions of some people, cultures or beliefs and that these stereotypes are universally considered wrong and hurtful. The intent of retaining said content in the collection is to maintain historical integrity, to learn from past inaccuracies and how those inaccuracies have contributed to today's challenges, and to encourage positive conversations and actions which lead to a more inclusive and just future in our community and beyond."**

The CEO reported that two patrons had requested that the Library withdraw these Dr. Seuss titles from the collection due to the controversial content, and that two patrons had stated that the library should not censor these titles and retain them in its collection. A fifth patron had offered to purchase any Dr. Seuss titles that may be withdrawn over this matter.

With the approved amendment to Policy OP-04 in mind, balanced against the level of publicity surrounding these titles, the CEO recommended that copies of *McElligot's Pool*, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, *On Beyond Zebra!*, *Scrambled Eggs Super!*, and *The Cat's Quizzer* by Dr. Seuss be temporarily set aside and held in the CEO's office until debates on the titles' merits subside. Copies will not be seen by patrons who deem them inappropriate, but will be available for loan to patrons who wish to review them. Subsequently, the copies will be returned to branches and subject to later withdrawal from the collection following the same parameters as any other titles: copy condition and level of usage. Ultimately, it is a parent or guardian's responsibility to monitor what her or his child borrows; if most patrons view these titles as inappropriate and do not borrow them, the items will eventually be weeded from the collection due to lack of use.

21-17 **MOVED** by Pat MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Grace Main

THAT the Dr. Seuss titles no longer being published due to controversial content be temporarily housed in the CEO's office, available upon request, and reshelved later in 2021 to be subject to later withdrawal from the collection following standard weeding parameters.

CARRIED.

8.2 Watch Local Week April 18 to April 24

In January, Graeme Bachiu from Windecker Road Films reached out to the CEO and suggested the launch of a virtual film festival in April, to coincide with Canadian National Film Day on April 21st. The virtual festival would feature works by filmmakers and producers in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties and streaming of the videos would be free to local residents over the period of one week. The Haldimand and Norfolk libraries would coordinate distribution of streaming links and passwords and would also assist with costs (\$400 each). The CEO enthusiastically supported this initiative and is pleased to announce that the project will proceed on schedule. The expense will be coded to the library's online databases budget and the monies will be paid to the filmmakers involved. Feature films and documentaries will be hosted on the Vimeo platform, a website through which individual filmmakers control access rights.

A press release prepared by Windecker Road Films was included in the Board package as information.

8.3 Jarvis Branch Vehicular Damage

The CEO provided a brief, verbal update on damages caused by a vehicle to the exterior wall and main entrance vestibule at the Jarvis Branch in late March. Full details will be provided in the *March/April/May Activity Report* presented at the next Board meeting.

9: Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in person on Thursday, May 27th, at 5:30pm at the Cayuga Branch, Program Room. [*This meeting was subsequently postponed to Thursday, June 10th, at 5:30pm at the Cayuga Branch, due to pandemic-related lockdown measures*].

10: Adjournment

21-18 **MOVED** by Malcolm Millar, **SECONDED** by Rob Shirton
THAT the meeting adjourn at 6:18 pm.
CARRIED.

Linda Van Ede, Chair

Date