



LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY MISSION: The Lincoln Public Library is a community hub ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities for thinking, playing, learning, and growing.

PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY MISSION: The mission of Pelham Public Library is to engage, encourage and enrich our community.

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2021
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
AND THE PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: via Zoom

Present from Lincoln Board: Donna Burton (Chair), Councillor JD Pachereva, Councillor Adam Russell, Donna Edwards (Vice-Chair), Ruth Gretsinger, Joanna Kocsis, Anna Murre, Terry Teather, Jennifer Thiessen

Present from Pelham Board: Nicole Nolan (Chair), Councillor Marianne Stewart, Donald Brown (Vice-Chair), Greg Lewis, Gwendoline MacDougall, Catherine McPherson, Gail Pepper, Madison Smith, Tim Wright

Staff: Julie Andrews (Lincoln CEO), Amy Guilmette (Pelham Acting CEO), Jo-Anne Teeuwsen (Pelham Acting Deputy CEO), Mikayla Gora (Pelham - minutes), David Cribbs (Town of Pelham CAO), Michael Kirkopoulos (Town of Lincoln CAO)

Guest: Peggy Malcolm (SOLS Consultant),

Regrets: None.

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

1. Call to Order/Regrets and Chair Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by N. Nolan.

2. Approval of the Agenda for the Library Board Meeting of January 27, 2021 and receipt of reports and correspondence

- Moved by G. Lewis, seconded by T. Wright

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**That the agenda for the meeting of January 27, 2021 be approved and the reports and correspondence listed on the agenda be received for discussion/action.
CARRIED.**

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

- None.

4. Opening Introductions and Meet & Greet - N. Nolan

4.1 Review Process

4.2 Introduction of Library Board Members

- N. Nolan reviewed process for meeting between both boards.
- Each board member from both libraries were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and give their thoughts on a union library.

5. Guess Panel - Question & Answer - D. Burton

5.1 Discussion & Questions for Guest Panel:

- **Peggy Malcolm, SOLS Consultant**
- **David Cribbs, Town of Pelham CAO**
- **Michael Kirkopoulos, Town of Lincoln CAO**

- D. Burton posed the following question to the guest speakers:

Communication is vital to ensuring stakeholders understand the rationale behind the amalgamation. How do you suggest we allow both Councils the opportunity to engage their communities regarding the process? Public meetings? Delegations? Surveys? Other?

- M Kirkopoulos shared his view on the engagement process, commenting that all the forms that had been listed can be useful and when an appropriate stage might be for community input.
- D. Cribbs stated that while public meetings would be useful, the pandemic makes that difficult to schedule. Potentially an option in the distant future. Would suggest that open houses between both libraries where patrons would be able to visit may be an idea.

- D. Burton posed the following question to the guest speakers:

The agreement between Councils to join library services into a single operation is key to the success of the relationship. Can you provide some ideas about how you see the agreement coming together and who should be involved in the process?

- P. Malcolm stated that she potentially sees the agreement working as an approximate 50/50 split. She has looked into both towns and feels that would be a fair division. Alternatively, she feels that Lincoln, with a slightly larger population, may wish to have more representation, therefore a 45/55 split would also be appropriate.
- M. Kirkopoulos stated that having representatives from each board would be preferable as opposed to all members of each board plus both town councils. Too many individuals involved in discussions may hinder them, instead of moving them along.
- D. Burton posed the following question to the guest speakers:

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A public communication plan will help both communities understand the rationale for the amalgamation and allay fears that their library services will be negatively impacted. What do you think is the appropriate schedule of activities to inform and educate library members and allow for input?

- P. Malcolm commented that the wording of such communication to the public is important. This would be a Union library, not an Amalgamation. This difference is important to convey to members of the public as they are two very different situations. Traditionally, amalgamations are forced by other branches of government and may have a negative connotation, whereas the formation of a union library is a chosen path and is a positive step forward.

5.2 Resolution to Move to Closed Session

- Moved by D. Edwards, seconded by R. Gretsinger

That the Boards now move into closed session at 6:53 p.m. for reasons permitted under the Public Libraries Act RE: discussion of matters about an identifiable individual. CARRIED.

5.3 Resolution to Rise from in Camera

- Moved by A. Russell, seconded by A. Murre

That the Boards now move out of closed session at 7:20 p.m. without report. CARRIED.

6. Next Steps - D. Burton

- Moved by C. McPherson, seconded by G. MacDougall

That the Lincoln Public Library Board and the Pelham Public Library Board direct the Lincoln Public Library CEO and the Pelham Public Library Acting CEO to prepare together a draft press release on the topic of forming a union library and to have this draft shared with both sets of board members for comment and suggestions prior to being sent out to the media. CARRIED.

- The Boards discussed the creation of a Special Committee that includes the Board Chair, and two board members from each library system, and that this Committee will be actioned to review, provide feedback and finally recommend the final draft of the union agreement that will be introduced by the library CEO/acting CEOs and the two CAO of the municipalities to both library boards.
- The appointment of this committee will take place during each board's regularly scheduled meeting to take place immediately following this special meeting.

- Moved by G. McDougall, seconded by G. Lewis

That the Lincoln Public Library Board and the Pelham Public Library Board will form a new Special Committee to review and provide feedback on the draft of the Union Draft Agreement. And, that both library boards will appoint their Chair and two board members for membership in this Special Committee at their next regular library board meeting. CARRIED

7. Adjournment

- Moved by T. Teather

That the Special Library Board meeting of January 27, 2021 be adjourned at 7:44 p.m. CARRIED.

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The foregoing minutes were approved by the Pelham Public Library Board on

Feb. 24, 2021
(date)

Amy Guilmette
Amy Guilmette, Secretary

Nicole Nolan
Nicole Nolan, Chair