

Woodstock Public Library Board

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026

A regular meeting of the Woodstock Public Library Board was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 4:15 pm, in the Board Room at 447 Hunter St.

a) The following Board members were present:

Mary Anne Silverthorn, Chair
Lynn Wareing, Vice Chair
Jordan Kent, Trustee
Ken Whiteford, Trustee
Councillor Kate Leatherbarrow
Councillor Bernia Martin

b) The following Board members sent regrets:

Councillor Deb Tait

c) The following persons were also present:

Lindsay Harris, CEO
Matthew Barabash, Director of Library Services/Deputy CEO (Acting)
Lori Peixoto, recorder

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

2. Indigenous Acknowledgement

The Library Board would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional and ancestral land of the Haudenosaunee, Lanape, and Anishnaabek Peoples. We thank all generations of people who have taken care of this land and recognize and reflect upon their historic and present connection and contributions to this land and place.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 26-36

MOVED by K. Whiteford and seconded by J. Kent to approve the Agenda.

Motion carried.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of April 14, 2026

Motion 26-37

K. Whiteford suggested expanding the FOPL acronym in the Minutes, for clarity.

MOVED by B. Martin and seconded by J. Kent to approve the Minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2026, as amended.

Motion carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Board Legacy Document

Discussion was had, and it was agreed by all members of the Board that a summary of achievements could be created, but not a lengthy document similar to what had been created in the past.

Motion 26-38

MOVED by B. Martin and seconded by K. Leatherbarrow that staff create a one-page summary of Board achievements for distribution to the community, and for onboarding and outreach to new Board members.

Motion carried.

7. Chairperson's Remarks

M.A. Silverthorn noted that the staff appreciation lunch had been scheduled with Todd's Dogs in July, and advertising for staff in the Library would start in June.

8. Delegations/Presentations

None.

9. Board Education

None.

10. Consideration of Correspondence

None.

11. Administrative Reports

a) Monthly Report

i. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

L. Harris provided an update on the work being done to restore the function of the Library's elevator. A grant proposal had been completed by the City's Facilities Manager for funding of up to \$60,000 for future elevator refurbishment. The City may be able to request the project be moved to 2027 from the original capital plan of 2028.

L. Harris provided details of a proposal submitted to the Mayor's Taskforce that would see the construction of a free, accessible pantry, managed by the Library, stocked with hygiene products and non-perishable food items.

L. Harris noted that the Library's Annual Survey had been completed and submitted to the Ministry.

ii. Report of the Director of Library Services/Deputy CEO

M. Barabash provided updated details on community partnerships, upcoming school visit locations, and a pilot project with Envoy Connect that includes 4 units to assist library patrons with visual impairment.

b) Statistics: Library Systems Activities for the month of April, 2026

L. Harris noted that numbers for April, 2026, were higher when compared to April in previous years.

c) Policy Review

i. Report – Board By-laws

Discussion was had regarding changes made, and all members agreed the document would be ready for voting at the regular meeting in June. L. Harris confirmed a clean version would be sent to the Board for final review prior to the meeting.

ii. WPL Board Procedural By-laws Notice of Proposed Amendments

12. Committee Reports

a) Ontario Library Service Trustee Assembly

None.

b) Health and Safety

None.

13. Finance

a) Treasurer's Report

There was no financial report provided.

14. New Business

None.

15. Notices of Motion

None.

16. Attachments

a) CFLA-FCAB Statement Bill-28; Canadian Federation of Library Associations; May 1, 2026

Discussion was had regarding the impact Alberta's bill would have on libraries in the province, potentially affecting intellectual freedom. The concern is that the effects could impact libraries in other parts of the country. Library advocacy groups have been putting out official statements on the matter, and the Board felt it important to do the same.

Motion 26-39

MOVED by K. Whiteford and seconded by K. Leatherbarrow that the Woodstock Public Library Board endorses CFLA-FCAB statement on Alberta's Bill 28.

Motion carried.

17. Committee of the Whole In-camera

None.

18. Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 4:15 pm.

19. Adjournment

M.A. Silverthorn declared the meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Vision

Growing with our community, embracing the opportunities of tomorrow.

Mission

Woodstock Public Library ignites curiosity and connects our community to a world of ideas, resources, and enriching experiences.