

Western Counties Regional Library

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Present:

Councillor Sherry Thorburn Irvine, Board Chair, Municipality of Shelburne.

Councillor Elizabeth Acker, Town of Shelburne.

Councillor Belle Hatfield, Town of Yarmouth.

Councillor Amy MacKinnon, Municipality of Barrington.

Councillor Réanne Evans, Councillor, Municipality of Clare

Councillor Phil Mooney, Councillor, Municipality of Yarmouth

Councillor Kathy Bourque, Municipality of Argyle.

Councillor George Manzer, Municipality of Digby.

Erin Comeau, Secretary – Treasurer.

Regrets:

Clifford Hood, Yarmouth Public Library & Museum

Councillor Willam McCormick, Town of Digby.

Mayor Clay Kenney, Town of Clark's Harbour.

Councillor Candace Malik, Town of Lockeport.

1. Call to Order.

Sherry Thorburn Irvine called the meeting to order at 1:00 and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda.

Elizabeth Acker moved and Phil Mooney seconded the adoption of the agenda.

Motion carried.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the February 11, 2025 board meeting were circulated. There being no errors or omissions, George Manzer moved and Elizabeth Acker seconded the approval of the February 11, 2025 board meeting minutes.

Motion carried.

4. Business Arising from the minutes

4.1 No business.

5. Chair's Report.

5.1 Sherry Thorburn Irvine reads her report thanking staff and board. Sherry Thorburn Irvine requests a one-pager that councillors could bring to councils to support funding. Erin Comeau requested a delay on this until after she had met with the Council of Regional Librarians to discuss the funding review status.

6. Director's Report.

6.1 Erin Comeau reports on management activities and other library activities. Erin provides an update on bridge funding from the Provincial government, which has been reinstated. Erin provides another update about a funding request submitted by CORL and is working with CORL on a strategy. Erin will be briefing the board after the next meeting on how to advocate for funding that can be brought to councils. Erin will not have time to visit councils in the spring. She will be available for visits to council in the fall. A conversation was had about funding. Elizabeth Acker suggests trying to get a meeting with Premier Tim Houston. Elizabeth also suggests a public relations and marketing campaign to spread awareness to the public.

6.2 Erin reports that management activities from 2024-25 will continue this coming fiscal year. Erin promotes upcoming media literacy and misinformation program to the board.

7. Approval of financial statement.

7.1 Kathy Bourque makes a motion to approve the financial statement. Phil Mooney seconds. Motion carried.

8. Policy review and recommendations

8.1 Belle Hatfield moves to accept policy package as submitted. Phil Mooney seconds. Motion carried.

9. New Business

9.1 Proposed change to board committees

9.1.1 Phil Mooney makes a motion to approve changes of board names and positions. William McCormick has been placed on Human Resources Committee and Clay Kenney will sit on Nominating Committee. Clifford Hood moves to Audit Risk and Finance Committee. Phil Mooney moves to Human Resources Committee. George Manzer seconds. Motion carried.

9.2 Approval of Library Accessibility Plan

9.2.1 Elizabeth Acker makes a motion to approve the 2025 library accessibility plan. Kathy Bourque seconds. Motion carried.

10. Other.

10.1 LBANS was disbanded. Money from LBANS for rural services fund that needs to be reallocated upon dissolution. Sherry recommended to give money to CORL so CORL will have the money for advocacy.

10.2 George Manzer asks about phone scam programs for seniors. Erin says she will let George know if we get someone in so it can be passed along to Seniors Services. Councillors will bring up to Police meetings.

- 10.3 Amy Mackinnon asks a question about the process for Adopt-A-Book. Brief discussion held and Erin offered to talk to Amy one-on-one if she has more questions.

11. Around the table.

12. Next Meeting.

Proposed Thursday, June 19, 2025

13. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.