

The Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Library Board
MINUTES - REGULAR LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
May 12, 2026

A Regular Meeting of The Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Library Board was held on May 12, 2026 at 3pm at the Norma and Miller Alloway Muskoka Lakes Public Library (Port Carling Branch) of the Muskoka Lakes Public Library system.

Present:

Heidi Berninger – Vice Chair
Deb Stokes (virtual)
Val Duke - Chair
Mary Ellen McIntyre
Doug Crichton
Marg Buddo
Andrew Whitfield

Regrets:

Barb Bridgeman

1. Call to order

V. Duke called to order at 3:06pm

2. Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration

“The Muskoka Lakes Public Library acknowledges that these lands and waters are the traditional homeland of the Ojibway Nation and the Huron /Wendat Nation and includes the Wahta Mohawks Nation and communities of the Metis Nation of Ontario. We acknowledge their stewardship throughout the ages.”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared

4. Adoption of Agenda

a. Regular Meeting – May 12, 2026

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Board Agenda dated May 12, 2026.

Resolution Number 1 -05/12/26

Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by D. Crichton; be it resolved that the Library Board agenda be adopted.

Carried.

5. Receipt/Adoption of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – April 14, 2026

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the meeting minutes for the April 14, 2026 Board Meeting.

Resolution Number 2 -05/12/26

Moved by M. Buddo; Seconded by M. McIntyre; be it resolved that the Library Board Minutes for April 14, 2026 be adopted.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Library Service and Space Review – Update from Steering Committee

Update was provided by Steering Committee on launch meeting that had happened that morning. Discussions held around next steps, timelines, and desired project outcomes. Steering Committee will continue meeting with consultants weekly to help progress the project and provide updates at subsequent board meetings.

b. LSC Liquidation Distribution / Restricted Reserve Update

Update was provided that the LSC Liquidation Distribution has been set in a restricted account with the Township (Similar to Friends donations and Giving Tree) to be used for other library projects requiring additional funds.

c. FOPL “Carrying More than Books” Advocacy Campaign Update

Update was provided on talking points and goal of the meeting scheduled for May 19th with MPP Graydon Smith and local library CEOs and representatives from the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL).

d. Scotiabank Account Change Update

Library board account will be transferred to Scotiabank in Bracebridge.

7. Financial Documents

a. April 2026 Financial Statement

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Financial statements for April, 2026.

Resolution Number 3 -05/12/26

Moved by M. McIntyre; Seconded by D. Crichton; be it resolved that the Library Board financial statement for April 2026 be adopted.

Carried.

- b. April 2026 Restricted Statement
- c. April 2026 Scotiabank Statement
- d. 2026 Q1 Scotiabank GIC Statement

8. Reports

- a. CEO Report – May 12, 2026 Board Meeting

CEO provided update on report including an outlook at end of month programming in May (Community Choir, staff retirement). Planning for Summer is underway.

9. Policy Development and Review

- a. OP-01 – User Code of Conduct 05.12.26

Discussion held around use of upper level parking lot and necessity to keep it in. Decided to remove and approve as amended.

Consideration of a Resolution to adopt OP-01 as amended.

Resolution Number 4-05/12/26

Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by M. McIntyre; be it resolved that the Library Board adopt OP-01 as amended.

Carried.

- b. OP-19 The Library and Political Elections 05.12.26

Discussion was held around this policy and a desire to bring it back for review/updating after this election cycle. There have been numerous questions raised across the province regarding what by-law, or act, supersedes what with regards to use of municipal facilities and resources. This policy attempts to reflect that but more work will be needed.

For now, changing of the dates and a consideration of a resolution to adopt as amended.

Resolution Number 5-05/12/26

Moved by M. McIntyre; Seconded by D. Crichton; be it resolved that the Library Board adopt OP-19 as amended.

Carried.

10. New and Unfinished Business

- a. Board Succession Planning discussion

Discussion held around upcoming board succession planning. CEO to discuss with Clerks office. CEO to review board planning policy and ask other systems for board scoring rubric if necessary. More details to be shared.

- b. M. Buddo wanted to remind CEO that the accreditation process was coming due again in the fall/end of the year. Work is ongoing.

- c. M. Buddo also advised that Board that the Annual OLS Board Assembly meeting was being held that evening at 6pm that she would be attending.

11. Closed Session

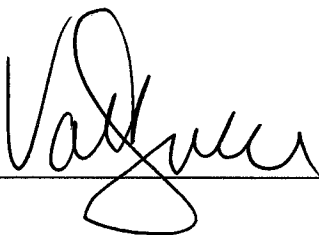
12. Adjournment

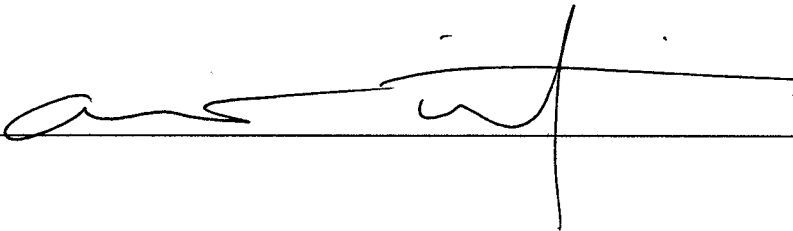
Consideration of a resolution to adjourn the May 12, 2026 Regular Library Board Meeting at 4:06pm.

Resolution Number 6 -05/12/26

Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by M. McIntyre; be it resolved that the May 12, 2026 Regular Library Board Meeting be adjourned at 4:06pm.

Carried.

Chairperson:  _____

Secretary:  _____

Approved: 06/09/2026