

The Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Library Board
MINUTES - REGULAR LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2026

A Regular Meeting of The Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Library Board was held on April 14, 2026 at 1pm 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

Val Duke - Chair

Mary Ellen McIntyre - Councillor

Doug Crichton

Barb Bridgeman

Marg Buddo

Andrew Whitfield – Secretary

1. Call to order

V. Duke called to order at 1:02pm

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 – April 14, 2026

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Board agenda dated April 14, 2026.

Resolution Number 1 -04/14/26

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

Carried.

5. Receipt/Adoption of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – February 10, 2026

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Board Minutes dated February 10, 2026.

Resolution Number 2 -04/14/26

Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by M. McIntyre; be it resolved that the Library Board minutes for February 10, 2026 be adopted.

Carried.

b. Regular Meeting – March 10, 2026

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Board Minutes dated March 10, 2026.

Resolution Number 3 -04/14/26

Moved by M. Buddo; Seconded by B. Bridgeman; be it resolved that the Library Board minutes for March 10, 2026 be adopted.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. Library Service and Space Review – See Report MLPL-2026-002
- b. Pricing on receipts, MOU with West Muskoka Foodbank – See CEO Report Feb/March 2026

7. Financial

- a. January 2026 Financial Statement
- b. January 2026 Scotiabank Statement
- c. February 2026 Financial Statement
- d. February 2026 Scotiabank Statement
- e. March 2026 Financial Statement

f. March 2026 Scotiabank Statement

Update provided by CEO on library financials to date. Township Treasury/Account Receivable are behind in entering/submitting invoices, resulting in lower than actual costs. Hoping to have this remedied and a standardized report in place for May.

Consideration of a resolution to adopt the Library Financial statements for January, February and March 2026.

Resolution Number 4 -04/14/26

Moved by B. Bridgeman; Seconded by D. Crichton; be it resolved that the Library Board financial statements for January, February, and March 2026 be adopted.

Carried.

g. Scotiabank Investment Summary (year end 2025)

h. Scotiabank GIC Repurchase Statement

Update provided by CEO on recent GIC repurchase. CEO will also look into possibility of making our home branch the Bracebridge Scotiabank v. the Gravenhurst branch.

8. Reports

a. CEO Report – April 14, 2026

The CEO reviewed the April 14, 2026 CEO Report with the Board, highlighting updates related to staffing, strategic initiatives, and community partnerships.

The CEO also provided an update regarding a recent meeting with representatives from Wahta Mohawks First Nation. The meeting was described as positive and productive, with several potential partnership and collaboration opportunities discussed.

b. Council Report – March 2026

The Council Report for March 2026 was received for information.

c. Report MLPL 2026-002 - Library Service and Space Review

The Board received Report MLPL 2026-002 for information. The CEO provided an update on discussions held with consultants on March 23, 2026 regarding questions and comments raised by the Board at the March 2026 Library Board meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed Steering Committee structure, potential participation from Board members, and next steps for the review process. The CEO was

authorized to circulate additional information regarding Steering Committee participation and meeting scheduling.

9. Policy Development and Review

a. Policy Committee Minutes – March 11, 2026

b. OP-01 – User Code of Conduct 04.14.26

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to OP-01 – User Code of Conduct. Discussion included adding language clarifying the authority of the CEO in administering and enforcing the policy.

The policy was referred back for further revisions and consideration at a future meeting.

c. OP-15- Public Health Emergency 04.14.26

Update provided on background of this policy and how it is a combination of two former ones. Noted a discrepancy in the header and footer.

Consideration of a Resolution to adopt OP-15 as amended.

Resolution Number 5 -04/14/26

Moved by D. Crichton; Seconded by B. Bridgeman; be it resolved that the Library Board adopt OP-15 – Public Health Emergency, as amended.

Carried.

d. OP-17 – Safety, Security and Emergencies in the Library 04.14.26

The Board reviewed OP-17 – Safety, Security and Emergencies in the Library. Discussion noted that references to former policies OP-15 and OP-16 required updating following recent policy consolidation.

Consideration of a resolution to adopt OP-17 – Safety, Security and Emergencies in the Library, as amended.

Resolution Number 6 -04/14/26

Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by M. McIntyre; be it resolved that the Library Board adopt OP-17 – Safety, Security and Emergencies in the Library, as amended.

Carried.

e. OP-19 The Library and Political Elections 04.14.26

The Board discussed OP-19 – The Library and Political Elections. The CEO advised that additional feedback had recently been received from Township staff and that further revisions would be brought back to a future Policy Committee meeting for review.

The policy was deferred pending further revisions.

10. New and Unfinished Business

a. LSC Liquidation distribution discussion

Discussion took place regarding the distribution of funds resulting from the liquidation of Library Services Centre assets. The Board discussed the potential of holding the funds within a restricted reserve account to support future Library Board-directed projects and initiatives.

b. FOPL 2026 Advocacy Campaign – Briefing Note

The CEO provided an update regarding the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) “Carrying More than Books” advocacy campaign related to the increasing pressures public libraries are facing associated with mental health, addictions, and social service-related issues. This included discussion regarding a scheduled meeting with MPP Graydon Smith in May 2026 involving several Muskoka and Parry Sound library CEOs.

Discussion was held regarding whether portions of the advocacy campaign appropriately reflected the realities of smaller and rural library systems, a concern shared by several participating libraries. A further update will be provided at the June 2026 Library Board meeting.

c. Poverty in Muskoka – Update from Mary Ellen

Councillor McIntyre provided an update regarding recent Food Insecurity and Poverty in Muskoka discussions and meetings.

The Board also discussed an upcoming community session scheduled for September 22, 2026. Andrew Whitfield will act as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

11. Closed Session

12. Adjournment

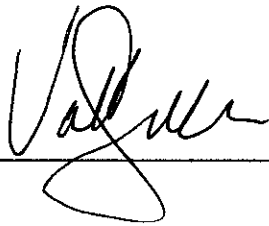
Consideration of a resolution to adjourn the April 14, 2026 Regular Library Board Meeting at 2:35pm.

Resolution Number 7 -04/14/26

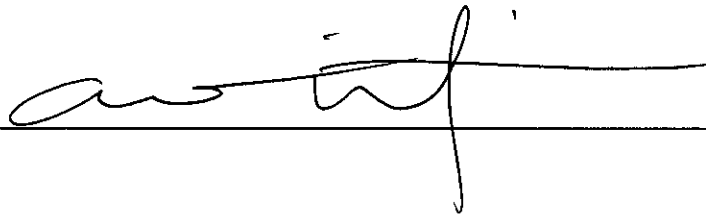
Moved by H. Berninger; Seconded by D. Crichton; be it resolved that the April 14, 2026 Regular Library Board Meeting be adjourned at 2:35pm.

Carried.

Chairperson: _____



Secretary: _____



Approved: _____

May 12, 2026