

**Smiths Falls Public Library Board Minutes**

**Date:** February 24, 2026  
**Location:** Library  
**Time:** 6:43 p.m.  
**Adjournment:** 7:32 p.m.

**In attendance:** S. McLean Knapp                      C. Mariona  
M. Gallagher    R. Cauley  
A. Guerin  
A. Foster, CEO/Chief Librarian

**Regrets:** M. Murphy                                      J. Miller  
S. Martin    C. Cummings

<b>Agenda / Item / Issue</b>	<b>Discussion / Action</b>
1. Call to order	A. Guerin called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgement	The partial Land Acknowledgement Statement for the Town of Smiths Falls was read by A. Guerin
3. Approval of the Agenda	The Montague Report was removed from the agenda due to the S. Martin's absence. <b>Motion: M. Gallagher moved the approval of the agenda as amended. Seconded by C. Mariona. Carried.</b>
4. Minutes of January 27, 2026	<b>Motion: It was moved by M. Gallagher and seconded by S. McLean Knapp that the minutes of January 27, 2026 be accepted as circulated. Carried.</b>
5. Disclosure of Monetary Interest	None.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	None.
7. Correspondence	A letter from the Town of Smiths Falls dated February 11, 2026 was received. It advised us that we are a "contributing" property in the Heritage Conservation District.
8. Librarian's Report and Statistics	A. Foster noted that in-person visits were up considerably over last January. Libby holds increased but wait times decreased. hoopla was very popular which is problematic given its cost model; she is thinking of reducing the maximum number of borrows per cardholder to help keep costs under control as further price caps would really limit selection. Several radiators were noticed to not be working and it looks like during the renovation the ones upstairs may not have been removed properly; for now, the

building is being heated adequately by using the heat option on the air conditioning units in addition to the working radiators. The ceiling in the children's department has been repaired. There a strange Internet outage. Our gas metre was scheduled to be replaced but we were told it was too icy and would be done in the spring. An application was made to Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations. Service Canada asked for information as our account for Canada Summer Jobs was not associated with a Canada Revenue Agency payroll deductions account; they seemed satisfied with information provided by the town. She also attended some meetings and webinars. The evening book club actually had more attendees than the morning book club. Adult crafts remain popular. The teen area is now almost complete. The PA program went well and had 18 children attend but we had to say we'd cancel if we didn't get more registrants a few days before the program. Story time programs were well-attended given the awful weather for much of the month. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten continues to do well. The Heritage House Museum has put a display case in the basement and it currently displays sports items. The Library Loot Bags for children have been much more popular than the ones for adults. Overall, the statistics were up compared to January 2025.

**Motion: A. Guerin moved to accept the January report and statistics. Seconded by S. McLean Knapp. Carried.**

#### 9. 2025: A Year in Review

There was a brief discussion about the increased statistics since moving back into the regular library building. The online booking system has been particularly well-received and the automatic reminders have helped reduce the number of no-shows at programs.

**Motion: R. Cauley moved that the 2025: A Year in Review be accepted by the board. Seconded by S. McLean Knapp. Carried.**

#### 10. Committee Updates

##### *Finance:*

The town's new deputy treasurer, C. Ryan, was able to provide the statements to December 31, 2025. Despite having to deal with the unexpected funding shortfall caused by the Township of Montague and many unexpected expenses after moving back, the amount of money spent ended up being quite close to the budgeted amount. A. Foster noted that she is concerned about the cost of unexpected property repairs (eg. considerable snow removal costs) in 2026 so far.

**Motion: A. Guerin moved to approve the financial statements to December 31, 2025. Seconded by S. McLean Knapp. Carried.**

*Fundraising:*

A. Foster noted that she had been contacted by a woman who expressed interest in donating an unnamed but substantial amount to the library in exchange for something (perhaps a study room) being named after her late husband. While the board did say that naming rights might be possible in our capital campaign for children's furniture, the board does not have anything in policy. There was a conversation about the pros and cons of naming rights and it was agreed that the Policy and Governance Committee should work on a policy.

*Policy and Governance:*

The committee will be meeting next Tuesday, March 3.

*Property Committee:*

Guerin suggested that the committee should meet in April for a post-renovation discussion.

11. New Business

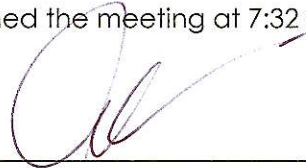
None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

13. Adjournment

A. Guerin adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.



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A. Guerin, Chair



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A. Foster, Secretary