

Smiths Falls Public Library Board Minutes

Date: May 26, 2026
Location: Library
Time: 6:29 p.m.
Adjournment: 7:32 p.m.

In attendance: A. Guerin M. Murphy
J. Miller S. Martin
M. Gallagher R. Cauley
A. Foster, CEO/Chief Librarian

Regrets: C. Cummings C. Mariona
S. McLean Knapp

~~~~~	
Agenda / Item / Issue	Discussion / Action
1. Call to order	A. Guerin called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgement	The partial Land Acknowledgement Statement for the Town of Smiths Falls was read by J. Miller.
3. Approval of the Agenda	<b>Motion: J. Miller moved the approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by S. Martin. Carried.</b>
4. Minutes of April 28, 2026	<b>Motion: It was moved by M. Gallagher and seconded by M. Murphy that the minutes of April 28, 2026 be accepted as circulated. Carried.</b>
5. Disclosure of Monetary Interest	None.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	None.
7. Correspondence	There were several pieces of correspondence from FOPL regarding Alberta's Bill 28. This bill has been framed by the Alberta government as protecting children by making "inappropriate books" inaccessible to children but in actuality is very broad as it allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to inspect any public library and issue any order they deem to be appropriate. This, of course, interferes with intellectual freedom and means censorship could take place. Smaller libraries are worried about potential costs of separating books and closures may occur. How this new law will be implemented is unknown at this point. Hopefully, something like this won't spread to Ontario but public libraries should be aware and strengthen existing policies on intellectual freedom etc. A. Foster noted that there has been shockingly little news

coverage on the passage of Bill 28 given its potential dystopian consequences.

We also received CULC's "Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultants in Advance of the 2026 Federal Budget" via FOPL. While the federal budget has little impact on public libraries, the asks are important. The five recommendations are: 1) the creation of a dedicated funding program to increase technology, connectivity, digital literacy, and AI literacy, 2) work with other levels of government to appropriately fund mental health, addictions, housing, and crisis-response services, 3) make the Equitable Access to Reading Program permanent, 4) work with libraries, publishers, authors, and provinces/territories to improve fair, affordable, and sustainable access to digital publications, and 5) create a national Public Library Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, and Equitable Access Fund to support public libraries.

#### 8. Librarian's Report and Statistics

A. Foster noted that the suspended hold feature on Libby has produced positive results and our wait times and number of holds have been pretty steady of late. There has been increase in actual teenagers using the teen area. We implemented a maximum of 6 monthly hoopla borrows to try to keep the monthly cost from rising. The eco-literacy program has funding for the next three years so there should be some programming year-round. We were waitlisted for Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations. We received an extra \$82 in interlibrary loan reimbursement. The ILL program was reconfigured by ILL which resulted in us receiving more requests.

The evening book club had more attendees than the morning one. Between the two sessions, there was decent interest in the adult craft club. Middle School Club was well-attended. Attendance was better for the Friday Mother Goose on the Loose than for the Tuesday Stories & More. Reading Dragons added more participants.

"Memory Lane Mondays" is being used to highlight some of our local history collection on Facebook.

The statistics were really good; as we were closed for much of April last year, this wasn't a surprise.

**Motion: A. Guerin moved to accept the March report and statistics. Seconded by S. Martin. Carried.**

#### 9. Committee Updates

*Finance:*

The financial statements were missing payroll figures as the town has not added these since the transition to Workzoom.

**Motion: J. Miller moved to accept the financial statements to April 30, 2026. Seconded by M. Gallagher. Carried.**



*Fundraising:*

A. Foster was approached by a woman who wanted to offer library postcards on commission. The price would be \$4.50 and we'd receive 25% of that. A. Foster thought that the price seemed high and will not be pursuing this.

A. Foster sent the woman who inquired about naming rights a copy of our policy. She has not heard anything further but it sounds like the will is still in probate.

We will look into creating a brochure for the local funeral homes.

*Policy and Governance:*

A meeting will be held before June's board meeting. We will examine intellectual freedom-related policies and our elections policy. We will probably wait on an AI policy or policies for now.

*Property Committee:*

The one-year renovation inspection will take place later this week. We have a list of outstanding issues.

We're still waiting for Healey's to update us on the back door replacement.

*SFPL Montague Agreement Task Force:*

M. Murphy noted that the task force focused on trying to make the agreement clearer. The major change was to the funding amounts. A. Foster noted that the 2027 ask, given Montague's current population, would get us to just over the \$25,000 received in 2024.

**Motion: J. Miller moved that the board accept the Task Force's amended draft agreement and ask S. Martin to bring this agreement forward to the Township of Montague. Seconded by R. Cauley. Carried.**

10. Montague Report

No written report was received from Montague. S. Martin will confirm the frequency of such reports. She noted that the story trail is up and running.

11. Municipal Report

J. Miller had a very exciting week. The new suspension bridge opened and it has huge sound of water. The bridge has been busy. Last night's council meeting went well with 8 Community Improvement Plan grants being improved including one for the siding at the Smiths Falls Art Hub to be removed and the original brick to be restored. She also encouraged everyone, especially women, to run for council.

12. New Business

M. Murphy gave a summary of recent Friends of the Library activities. They distributed books to local schools on World Book Day and loved seeing how excited one boy was to start reading his book immediately. They are providing funding for the library's snacks during the summer for

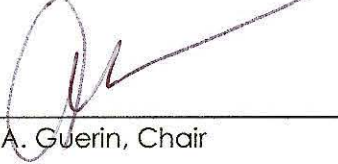
children. She also noted that their book sale will be held on Saturday, June 13.

13. Date of Next Meeting

June 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

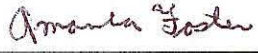
14. Adjournment

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



---

A. Guerin, Chair



---

A. Foster, Secretary