

**Cumberland Regional Library Board  
Minutes – April 9, 2026**

Mission statement: “We provide free access to information while celebrating our role as a welcoming place for everyone to learn, connect, and grow.”

The April 9, 2026 meeting of the Cumberland Regional Library Board was held at the Four Fathers Memorial Library.

**Present:** David Beattie, Councillor Carla Black (Treasurer), Mark Joseph (Vice Chair), Councillor Terry McManaman, Councillor Angel McCormick (Interim Chair), Denise Corey (Director, Secretary), Chantelle Taylor (Deputy Librarian, Recording Secretary)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:17pm.

**2. Introduction of new Board members**

Ms. Corey welcomed new Board members Mr. David Beattie and Mr. Mark Joseph.

**3. Election of Officers**

Ms. Corey informed the Board that the Chair, and Vice Chair are open. The current Treasurer is Councillor Black; she then called for nominations.

Ms. Corey acted as the Chair for the election.

*Councillor McCormick motioned that an interim Chair to be appointed until additional Board members are appointed. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried*

*Councillor McCormick moved that she be Interim Chair. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.*

Ms. Corey returned the Chair to Councillor McCormick.

*Mr. Joseph motioned that he be Vice Chair. Seconded by Councillor McCormick. Motion carried.*

*Councillor Black motioned that she be Treasurer. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried.*

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

*Councillor McManaman moved that that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.*

**5. Approval of Minutes of the February 5, 2026 meeting**

*Councillor Black moved that the minutes of February 5, 2026 meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried.*

**6. Old Business**

**A. Library funding**

Ms. Corey informed the Board that there will be no increase in funding for Libraries and there will be no bridge funding for 2026-27.

**B. Addition community representatives**

Councillor Black informed the Board that Oxford would go along with the recommendation of Cumberland County and Town of Amherst regarding adding additional members.

Discussion ensued.

- 1-Councillor from Cumberland County
- 1- Councillor from Town of Oxford
- 1-Councillor from Town of Amherst
- 2-Provincial appointees
- 1- EDIA community member
- 3- Community members

*Councillor Black motioned to contact CAO from Cumberland County to change additional County Councillor to Community member. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried.*

**7. Actions arising from the minutes**

**A. In Camera item – personnel matter**

*Councillor Black motioned to go in camera. Seconded by Councillor McCormick. Motion carried.*

In Camera 4:45pm

*Mr. Beattie motioned to go out of in camera. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.*

Out of Camera 4:59pm

*Mr. Beattie motioned to request Ms. Corey contact lawyer for further guidance on the matter. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried.*

**7. New Business**

**A. Preliminary 2026-27 Budget**

Ms. Corey presented the Board with a preliminary budget. Discussion ensued.

**B. Public Meeting**

Ms. Corey reported that our annual public meeting would be held in Pugwash on Wednesday May 27 at 6:30pm.

**C. Community board member recruitment**

Ms. Corey asked the Board how they wanted to go forward fill the EDIA community member vacated by Ms. Ford in March 2026. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Corey will update title, and recruitment poster to send to the Board for approval.

**D/E. In Camera item – personnel matter**

*Mr. Joseph motioned to go in camera. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.*

In Camera 5:49pm

*Councillor McCormick motioned to go out of in camera. Seconded by Councillor Mcmanaman. Motion carried.*

Out of Camera 6:18pm

## **F. Pugwash Friends of the Library**

Ms. Corey reported that the Pugwash Friends of Library group has reached out to her to ask about fundraising for Pugwash additional programs and extended hours. Councillor Black mentioned she has also had this request. Discussion ensued.

The Board asked Ms. Corey to contact the friends group and get a proposal to present to the Board.

## **8. Reports**

### **A. Financial report**

Ms. Corey provided Board members with copies of the Revenues and Expenditures for the Library and provided highlights.

*Mr. Joseph moved that the financial report be adopted as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beattie. Motion carried.*

### **B. Operations Report**

Ms. Taylor reported the Advocate staff member will be leaving their position as of April 18, 2026.

A new staff person was hired to fill in hours in the Springhill and Oxford libraries, hours in both locations are back to normal.

All Automatic Release Plans with Whitehots have been cancelled. This means the library isn't contractually obligated to purchase new bestselling book releases. Libby will be continuing.

The Library will have 2 Summer Student grants and an ASCEND placement this spring and summer.

### **C. Programming reports**

As per Library Director's Report to the Board.

### **D. Accessibility report**

As per Library Director's Report to the Board.

Councillor McCormick stated that the Springhill ramp will be taken care of soon.

### **E. Strategic Planning**

As per Library Director's Report to the Board.

## **8. Other**

**Next meeting: June 4, 2026 4:30pm**

There being no further business Councillor McCormick adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:  
Denise Corey, Chief Librarian/Board Secretary

## **Cumberland Regional Library Board**

### *Mission Statement:*

*“We provide free access to information while celebrating our role as a welcoming place for everyone to learn, connect, and grow.”*

### **Library Director’s Report to the Board April 2, 2026**

#### Item 3. Election of Officers

Ms. Corey acts as Chair for this portion of the meeting.

#### **Recommended Motion– call for nominations for Chair**

Once the Chair is elected they take on chairing the meeting and request nominations for Vice-chair and Treasurer.

#### **Recommended Motion - call for nominations for Vice-Chair**

Currently there is no one in the Vice-Chair role.

#### **Recommended Motion - call for nominations for Treasurer**

Currently, Councillor Black is the treasurer.

#### Item 6 A. Library Funding

At the time this package is being put together the provincial budget has not yet passed, but I anticipate that libraries will continue to be funded at the same amount as 2020. It does seem that there will be no Bridge Funding this year to aid with inflationary pressures.

#### Item 6 B. Additional community representatives

Both the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of Cumberland agreed to the addition of community board members as long as they were able to select the candidates.

The Town of Oxford discussed it in February but those minutes have not yet been posted and I do not know the recommendation.

#### Item 7 A. In Camera item – personnel matter

**Recommended motion - move to in camera**

**Recommended motion - move out of in camera**

Item 8 A. Preliminary 2026/27 Budget

According to the bylaws the Library Director needs to provide a preliminary budget to the board at this meeting for discussion. The budget is generally not passed until after the annual financial review is completed and presented to the board.

A copy of the preliminary budget is in the package.

At this point the board can make changes to the budget.

The version provided of the budget includes a 10% hours reduction of 8 full time Headquarters staff.

Item 8 B. Public Meeting

Generally we host a public meeting about the library in the late Spring, anytime from the end of April to the middle of June. This is usually an update to the community about what the library has done in the past year and information about funding.

Is there a preferred date for this meeting?

Library Board members are encouraged to attend.

Item 8 C. Community board member recruitment

The Community Board member position was approved in 2021 by the municipalities and the province. The rationale behind the addition of this position was to bring an eye to inclusion, equity, diversity, and/or accessibility to strengthen the library board's connection to the community and help make better decisions that will benefit a larger sector of the population.

Kim Ford's term as the Community Board member finished on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Does the Board want to change the name to EDIA Community Board member to not confuse it with the other possible community board positions?

Item 8 D. In Camera item – personnel matter

**Recommended motion - move to in camera**

**Recommended motion - move out of in camera**

Item 8 E. In Camera item – personnel matter

**Recommended motion - move to in camera**

**Recommended motion - move out of in camera**

#### Item 9 A. Financial Report

As of the end of February, the library was 92% through the fiscal year and had received 95% of anticipated revenue and had expended 92% of anticipated expenditures.

#### **Recommended motion - move February financial report.**

#### Item 9 B. Operations Report

The fairly new staff member in Advocate has decided to take another job with more hours and better pay. This position will be posted soon.

A new staff person was hired to fill in hours in the Springhill and Oxford libraries. They are in the midst of training.

In the midst of Performance Evaluations with staff.

All Automatic Release Plans with Whitehots have been cancelled. This means the library isn't contractually obligated to purchase new bestselling book releases. At this point we are buying very few books.

#### Item 9 C. Programming Report

CPL had a display about the Amherst Royals, a team in the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes, at the Amherst Library. The exhibit then travelled to the Springhill Library. Next it will be in River Hebert and Pugwash locations.

March Break was very successful this year the numbers are being compiled right now and will be available to you soon.

CPL is taking part in Read Coast 2 Coast, a SamePage initiative to encourage people to read Canadian authors.

#### Item 9 D. Accessibility Report

Below is the report from Charlotte Gallivan:

Since our last meeting, I have been off on extended medical leave. That means Accessibility progress has been slow. However, several things have happened.

First, Kim has stepped down from the Library Board. This means we do not currently have a Board member sitting on this Committee. Kim will be staying on the Accessibility Committee as a Community Member. I have asked Library Management to ask the Board if they would like to have a new representative take Kim's place on this Committee.

We also have some building upgrades. The Municipality of Cumberland County has replaced the ramp on the back of the Springhill Library. The ramp still needs to be evaluated before the public can use it. To accommodate library patrons needs, we are still doing curbside pick-up, or sending

items to patrons via Borrow By Mail. The Town of Amherst has finished leveling the Seminar Room floor at the Amherst Library. This means the Amherst Library's program space is now accessible to all.

Due to ongoing financial constraints, the Library Board has decided to reduce the hours of eight full-time staff members by 10%. This change will take effect on April 13, 2026. I am unfortunately one of these people. Because I have less working time every week, this means less time will be devoted to all of my tasks - including accessibility work.

#### Item 9 E. Strategic Planning

There is nothing new to report in this meeting. Many of the strategic goals are being rolled back as the library doesn't have funding or people to do the work.

Date and Time of next meeting: June 4, 2026