

**Cumberland Regional Library Board
Minutes – June 4, 2026**

“Cumberland Public Libraries”, managed and operated by the Cumberland Regional Library Board, a body corporate pursuant to the Libraries Act of Nova Scotia.

The May 5, 2026 meeting of the Cumberland Regional Library Board was held at the Four Fathers Memorial Library and via Google Meet

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

Regrets: Mark Joseph (Vice Chair)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:29pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Councillor McManaman moved that that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of the April and May 2026 meeting

Councillor Black moved that the minutes of April 9, May 5 and May 7 2026 meetings be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Beattie. Motion carried.

4. Old Business

A. Public Meeting

Ms. Corey reported that the library had its annual public meeting on Wednesday May 27.

5. Actions arising from the minutes

A. Draft 2026-27 budget updated

Ms. Corey presented the Board with an updated preliminary budget. Discussion ensued.

B. EDIA board member

Ms. Corey presented the Board with an updated version of the EDIA posting. Discussion ensued.

C. Additional board member

Ms. Corey presented the Board with new letters for the Municipalities requesting additional community board members.

6. New Business

A. Moving to Oxford community centre

Ms. Corey reported that the library didn't have an official move in ready date but the Oxford community centre has posted there will be a grand opening on July 18th.

.

Ms. Corey met with the CAO of Oxford and with Carla to determine how we'll move to the new library considering the lack of funds.

B. Updates from other regions

Annapolis Valley Regional Library announced that it would be closing 5 locations July 20. Discussion ensued.

C. Personnel matters-in-camera

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

In Camera 4:43pm

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

Out of Camera 5:01pm

7. Reports

A. Financial report

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

Councillor McManaman moved that the financial report be adopted as presented. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.

B. Operations Report

Ms. Corey reported a new staff member was hired for the Advocate Library. Unfortunately, they are unavailable on Saturdays during the summer as they have another position.

The library received grants for 3 summer students and have a youth placement.

The library will be holding "Screen-free Saturdays" at branches throughout the summer.

This program is paid for in part by grants received from two of the community health boards.

C. Accessibility report

Ms. Corey reported that an accessibility meeting was being set up for June.

8. Other

Councillor McCormick followed up with Ms. Corey about approving the EDIA position.

Councillor McManaman mentioned a large donation of DVDs and CDs to the library.

Pugwash library group was mentioned. Ms. Corey reported the group was waiting for the budget to be past. The group is having a meeting with Liz Clark and Jen Houghtaling.

Next meeting: July 14, 2026 4:30pm

There being no further business Councillor McCormick adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Denise Corey, Library Director/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 June 4, 2026

Item 3. Approval of the minutes of April 2026, May 2026

There are three meeting's worth of minutes to pass.

Item 4A. Public meeting

The annual public meeting was held May 27th at the Pugwash Library. Attendance was quite low although some people did watch on Facebook. The slides are available on the website.

Item 5A. Draft 2026-27 Budget updated

I've done my absolute best to reduce every line item.

In the Board package you will find the latest version. Normally the Board would approve the budget at the June meeting but as the audited report won't be available until July, I would suggest waiting.

We could cancel magazine subscriptions. They have already been reduced from 99 total magazines (with duplicates of several to go to multiple branches) to 34 with no duplicate titles. This has brought the cost down from approximately \$7,000 to approximately \$2,600.

Item 5B. EDIA board member

At the last meeting I was directed to change the posting for the EDIA Board member position. This needs to be approved and a date set so it can be posted. The applications will go to the library board email address.

Item 5C. Additional board members

As each municipality has approved a different approach I need to write a new letter to the municipalities asking for additional board members. A motion was made in the April meeting so I think that the letter just needs to be signed.

Item 6A. Moving to Oxford community centre

The library has not been informed of an official move in ready date but the Oxford community centre has posted there will be a grand opening on July 18th.

I will be meeting with the CAO of Oxford and with Carla to determine how we'll move to the new library considering the lack of funds.

Item 6B. Updates from other regions

On May 26th, I attended a meeting of provincial library directors where we each discussed what steps we have taken to mitigate the lack of funding; such as, expanding fundraising efforts, sharing resources across regions, reducing staff and service hours, cutting programs and collections, postponing maintenance and capital investments.

The Chair of CoRL (Council of Regional Libraries) is sending a letter to Min. Ritcey to request that additional funds be provided before the library systems collapse.

Item 6C. Personnel matters – in camera

Recommended motion - move to in camera

Recommended motion - move out of in camera

Item 7A. Financial Report

The financial report to the end of April is attached. I have compared the figures to the draft budget.

Recommended motion - move April financial report.

Item 7B. Operations Report

A new staff member was hired for the Advocate Library. Unfortunately, they are unavailable on Saturdays during the summer as they have another position.

We received grants for 3 summer students and have a youth placement.

We will be holding "Screen-free Saturdays" at branches throughout the summer paid for in part by grants received from two of the community health boards.

With a reduction in several staff member hours it is proving difficult to have staff go out to cover hours at various branches.

Item 7C. Accessibility Report

Charlotte is in the process of organizing a June meeting for the committee.

Date and Time of next meeting: July 14, 2026 at 4:30pm