

Cumberland Regional Library Board
Minutes – July 14, 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 July 14, 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), Mark Joseph (Vice Chair), Councillor Angel McCormick (Interim Chair), Denise Corey (Director, Secretary), Chantelle Taylor (Deputy Librarian, Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Councillor Terry Mcmanaman

Guest: Kathleen Mitchell and Brody Schmitt (MNP Chartered Accountants)
Gordon Johnson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Councillor Black moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Mr. Beattie. Motion carried.

3. Auditor’s Report

Ms. Mitchell of MNP Chartered Accountants went over the audited statement and answered questions for the Board. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Beattie moved to accept the auditor’s final report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.

Councillor Black moved to appoint MNP as auditors for the next fiscal year. Seconded by Mr. Beattie. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the June 4 and June 16, 2026 meeting

Councillor Black moved that the minutes of June 4 and June 16, 2026 meetings be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Additional board members

Ms. Corey reported that the municipal partners have approved addition citizen appointees to the Board.

6. Actions arising from the minutes

A. Presentation from Pugwash library supporters

Mr. Johnson and answered questions about fundraising for the Pugwash library.

B. EDIA board member

Ms. Corey reported the updated EDIA posting is up on the library website. Discussion ensued.

C. In Camera item-personnel matter

Mr. Joseph motioned to go in camera. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.
In Camera 5:28pm

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

Out of Camera 5:49pm

Mr. Beattie moved that the Board gives Ms. Corey the authority to make operational decisions in Union negotiations. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.

Mr. Joseph moved an offer of 1% for the first year and 1% for the second year of the Union contract. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.

7. New Business**A. 2026/27 budget**

Ms. Corey presented the Board with a preliminary 2026-27 budget. Discussion ensued.

Councillor Black motioned that the budget be accepted as amended. Seconded by Mr. Joseph. Motion carried.

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.

Next meeting: September 3, 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 July 14, 2026

Item 3. Auditor's Report

MNP will have an accountant discuss the financial statements for the year.

Recommended motion: Accept the audited financials.

Recommended motion: Appoint MNP as auditors for the next fiscal year.

Item 4. Approval of the minutes of June 4, 2026 and June 16, 2026

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

Item 5A. Additional board members

All of the municipal partners have approved to add additional citizen representatives to the library board. At this point we will have to wait for their appointment process.

Item 6A. Presentation from Pugwash library supporters

Gordon Johnson will attend to present a plan to raise additional funds for the Pugwash Library to provide things like an increase in hours or more programming.

Item 6B. EDIA Board member

The EDIA Board member post is on the library website. Applicants have been directed to apply to the library board email address or drop off their application to any library.

There is no closing date listed on the website but I would suggest that the Board may want to set a date.

Item 7A. 2026/27 Budget

The Board has to set a budget for the year, although it is difficult now as negotiations with NSUPE are ongoing. I did include an increase for salaries in the budget as I assume there will some level of increase negotiated.

The draft budget provided still has a deficit of almost \$70,000 even with most budget lines reduced as much as possible.

Recommended motion: Accept or amend the presented budget.

Item 8A. Financial Report

As of the end of June, we are 25% through the fiscal year.

I have compared the numbers against one version of the unapproved budget but I can provide new numbers next week with the passage of the new budget.

We have received 48% of our anticipated revenue, and have spent 27% of the expected expenditures.

Recommended motion: Accept the financial report.

Item 8B. Operations Report

Moving the Oxford Library

We are working with the Town of Oxford to move the library into the new community centre. This will take place on July 16th.

The Centre has yet to set an opening date so I am exploring ideas to have service for Oxford citizens in the meantime.

Advocate open Saturdays

The staff member in Advocate gave up their other commitment to open the branch on Saturdays.

Amherst leaks

The town workers have already (as of July 3rd) been in for four different ceiling leaks this summer due to the aging HVAC unit.

Programs

Programs are being offered in all branches this summer. Oxford programs are taking place in the gazebo or town hall.

Every branch is offering Screen Free Saturdays with the help of a grant from North Shore Community Health Board and Springhill, Oxford, Amherst and Region Community Health Board.

SchoolsPlus is working the library to hold ice cream socials throughout the summer in all locations.

All library programming can be found on the Calendar on the website:

<https://www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca/events-calendar/>

Item 8C. Accessibility Report

Update from Charlotte Gallivan, Accessibility lead for CPL:

Progress has been slow on our accessibility plan. This is due to a number of factors: Charlotte's extended medical leave, a reduction in library staff hours, and an overall lack of library funding.

Despite this, here are a few updates:

The Municipality of Cumberland County has replaced the ramp on the back of the Springhill Library. The ramp has officially been evaluated, and is available for use!

The plan for the summer is to work on:

Providing ways for people to request accommodations so that they may more fully participate in a program or benefit from a service.

Exploring the "Working With Abilities" provided by the NS Human Rights Commission to ensure it is the best resource for staff training.

Figure out the best resource to use for library building audits, and make a plan to do audits in the Fall.

The Library Accessibility Committee would also like a board member to sit on the committee.

Date and Time of next meeting: Thursday, September 3rd at 4:30pm