Minutes

The Blue Mountains Public Library Board Meeting

Meeting Date: July 16, 2026
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Library Boardroom
Prepared By: Jennifer Murley, CEO/Secretary of the Board

In Attendance: Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff
Joanne de Visser (Vice-Chair)
Julia Scott (Chair)
Kristina Wichman
Laurey Gillies
Marie Swift
Shawn McKinlay

Guests: Adam Smith, TBM CAO
Phil Pesek, TBM Manager of Facilities and Fleet

Staff: Jennifer Murley, CEO
Alessia Farris, Museum Curator
Franz Greenfield, Administrative Assistant

Absent: N/A
Regrets: N/A

A. Call to Order

A.1 Moment of Reflection

The Board meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:00p.m. A Moment of Reflection was observed.

A.2 Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement

The Chair read the Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement.

A.3 Public Announcement

One member of the public was present to provide a deputation to the Board.

B. Agenda

B.1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Two items were added to the agenda:

- Under D.2. “Business Arising from the Minutes”: Update for Board recruitment.
- Under “Community News and Updates”:

- Article: “TBM will put library funding agreement under the microscope” (Collingwood Today)
- Article: “Our public library is a shared space, not a shelter” (The Spec)

BMPL-Resolution 2026-037

Moved by Joanne de Visser and seconded by Kristina Wichman, THAT the Agenda of July 16, 2026, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda. CARRIED.

B.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

C. Reports to be “Received as Information”

All reports to be received as information were received with additional discussion occurring as the items arose within the agenda.

BMPL-Resolution 2026-038

Moved by Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff and seconded by Shawn McKinlay, THAT this Board receive as information:

1) ADM.26.13 entitled “2026 Action Plan-Summary Review-July”
2) ADM.26.14 entitled “Q2 Report”
3) ADM.26.15 entitled “Deaccessioning Requests-July”
4) GOV.26.03 entitled “Strategic Planning Steering Committee Update-July”

CARRIED.

D. Minutes

D.1 Previous Minutes

BMPL-Resolution 2026-039

Moved by Marie Swift and seconded by Laurey Gillies, THAT this Board approves the Blue Mountains Public Library Board minutes of May 21, 2026, as circulated; AND

THAT this Board receives the Blue Mountains Public Library Strategic Planning Steering Committee minutes of May 12, 2026, as information; AND

THAT this Board receives the Blue Mountains Public Library Board’s Financial Working Group minutes of May 11, 2026, as information.

CARRIED.

D.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

1. **Board Recruitment**
   Chair Scott met individually with each Board member to gauge their interest in serving an additional term. Additionally, Board recruitment sessions are being planned for the fall of 2026.

E. Communications with the Board

The deadline for registration was Monday, July 13 at 2:00p.m. One member of the public was present to provide a deputation to the Board.

E.1 Deputations

1. **Julie Manell, Resident (Re: Creative Writing Programming)**
   Julie Manell proposed the library, as it explores expansion, incorporate a permanent creative writing program, which would include a program director and writer in residence.

E.2 Public Input on the Agenda

None.

E.3 Correspondence

None at the time of agenda creation.

F. Strategic Plan Updates & Action Items

F.1 Action Planning

1. **Discussion:** ADM.26.13 entitled “2026 Action Plan-Summary Review-July” Presented to Board.

F.2 Strategic Plan Pillar: Community Hubs

1. **Report:** Multi-Year Funding Agreement & TBM Corporate Strategic Plan Update [TBM CAO, Adam Smith]

   TBM Corporate Strategic Plan Update
   CAO Smith highlighted two key priorities for the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan: securing input and buy-in from Town staff and ensuring alignment between the Town's and the Library's strategic plans. He also emphasized the importance of identifying the Town's core municipal services to help guide future resource allocation.

   The Board discussed the Library's role as a community hub, cultural partner, and service provider within the Town. Questions were raised regarding the Library's position as both a municipal partner and a contributor to broader community priorities.

   The Library was acknowledged as an important cultural partner, with recognition that there may be opportunities for the GLAM to evolve and assume responsibility for certain services that are better aligned with its mandate than with the Town's.

   It was noted that, while the Library is not considered a core municipal service from the Town's service delivery perspective, this does not diminish its importance to the community or the Town's overall objectives. By way of comparison, communications was cited as a function that is not considered a core municipal service but remains an essential component of delivering services, engaging the community, and advancing corporate priorities.

Multi-Year Funding Agreement Review

Chair Scott opened the discussion noting that the purpose of the CAO's update is to clarify the intention of staff report ADM.26.041 regarding the Library Board's Funding Agreement with Council. The update is to be received as information only, and it is not formal notice of cancellation of the funding agreement.

CAO Smith clarified that this notice is not a termination of the agreement, but rather an opportunity for the incoming Council to review it alongside other long-term municipal agreements in Q1 of 2027.

Discussion included the following:

- Any decisions resulting from the review will not affect the 2027 budget. Should changes be made, implementation would not occur until 2028.
- It is not anticipated that the review will impact the Library's current renovation and expansion planning.
- The review will consider the Town's long-term financial capacity while supporting the continued delivery and future growth of library services.
- The review process will be undertaken collaboratively by CEO Murley, CAO Smith, and members of the Town's senior management team. The CAO emphasized that the Board will be kept informed and involved throughout the process.
- Clarification was provided regarding the relationship between the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Multi-Year Funding Agreement. It was noted that the agreements serve different purposes and are not directly linked. The MOU establishes the roles, responsibilities, and shared service arrangements between the Town and the Library Board, while the Funding Agreement provides a sustainable funding framework to support the long-term delivery of library, museum, gallery, and archival services.
- The Board emphasized the importance of CEO Murley's participation in the review process to provide historical context and the rationale behind the existing agreement.
- The Board also noted that meaningful participation in the review requires a clear understanding of the Library's financial position. Members expressed concern regarding the historical lack of comprehensive financial reporting from the Town, including inconsistent reporting and the absence of a complete statement of all Library accounts since the completion of the 2024 audit.

To support the Board's participation in the review, the following actions were identified:

- CAO Smith confirmed that the 2025 audited financial statements are expected to be presented in September 2026.
- The Board requested a complete and accurate statement of all Library accounts.

- CEO Murley will arrange for the Library's auditors and a Town finance representative to attend the September 2026 Board meeting to review the audited financial statements and answer questions.

[CAO Smith left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.]

2. **Verbal Report**: LES Washroom Renovation [Phil Pesek, TBM Manager of Facilities and Fleet]
   - Completion is anticipated by the end of July.
   - The $90,000.00 surplus noted in May is being redirected to library updates (water fountain and ceiling fans) to fully utilize 100% of the allocated budget.
   - A formal Ministry inspection was triggered by an anonymous complaint regarding exposure concerns. The matter has been resolved, with no concerns regarding exposure, and the file is closed with no orders issued.

F.3 Strategic Plan Pillar: Organizational Excellence

1. **Report:** ADM.26.14 entitled "Q2 Report"
   Presented to the Board as information.

2. **Report:** GOV.26.03 entitled "Strategic Planning Steering Committee Update-July"
   Research and consultation have been completed. A formal framework will be presented at the September meeting. Key points from the discussion included:
   - While there was discussion around making the vision statement community-focused, the Board agreed it should remain centered on the Library so its identity is not lost.
   - Evaluating the 10-year strategic plan through the lens of the Town's current strategic plan to ensure alignment, keeping in mind the difference in timelines (the Town's current plan spans only one year, allowing incoming Council to adopt or revise).

3. **Verbal Report:** Finance Working Group [Julia Scott]
   - The committee is currently reviewing policies and procedures, the MOU and relevant legislation.
   - The committee will present a draft financial framework for the Board's September meeting. The framework will serve as a visual tool to illustrate how the library's different financial pieces coexist.
   - CEO Murley also noted that the 2026 Action Plan outlines several financial policies to be reviewed or created.

4. **Discussion:** Expansion Next Steps: Design RFP
   The Board emphasized the need to keep momentum moving forward. Key points from discussion included:
   - The Board must establish a clear understanding of the project process. Specifically, the Board needs to identify where its input is required, where key decisions must be made, and ensure opportunities to be consulted on the RFP design.

- An expert will be invited to the September meeting to outline the process, which will assist the Board with determining future actions.

F.4 Strategic Plan Pillar: Empowering Services

1. **Report:** ADM.26.15 entitled “Deaccessioning Requests-July”
   The Board inquired whether items could be sold or given away rather than discarded. The Curator clarified that selling deaccessioned items can undermine public trust, noting that priority is always given to returning items to the original donor or finding an appropriate home with another institution.

   While expressing full confidence in the Curator’s expertise, the Board noted their own lack of knowledge in these matters and questioned the requirement for Board approval. It was confirmed that it is standard procedure to require approval from a governing body for deaccessioned items. Moving forward, the Board requested updates on deaccessioned items, including photos and their final destinations.

BMPL-Resolution 2026-040

Moved by Joanne de Visser and seconded by Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff, THAT this Board approves the deaccession of the following objects from the Craigleith Heritage Depot Museum Collection:

- 2007-011-001 a & b: Two wooden red skis stained with red metal bindings and leather safety strap;
- 2009-042-872: Trunk/chest; wooden travel trunk, no lid, decorative metal strappings, remnants of cloth interior;
- 2009-007-008: Large apple press made of barn board; and
- 2011-008: Sunnybrook Orchard Apple Crate.

CARRIED.

G. Roundtable

G.1 Roundtable—General updates by the Board

1) Community Updates and News:
   - Members Scott and Sackville-Duyvelshoff attended a session hosted by the Ratepayers Association and Community Matters at the Marsh Street Centre. During the event, they engaged with municipal candidates to highlight the vital role and importance of the library within the community.
   - Global News (June 2, 2026): Toronto Public Library partners with UHN to offer mobile health clinic
   - Collingwood Today (June 15, 2026): TBM approves funding for library expansion design work to start
   - CBC News (June 15, 2026): New privacy bill would give Canadian right to request companies delete AI deepfakes

- BBC (June 20, 2026): Not just books – how renting a sewing machine from the library can improve democracy
- Collingwood Today (June 29, 2026): TBM will put library funding agreement under the microscope.
- The Spec (July 15, 2026): Our public library is a shared space, not a shelter

2) BMPL Events: a shortlist of special events occurring prior to the next meeting were provided.
   - Poetry Workshop with Aniah Ruthven
     July 21, 2026 | 2-4 pm| L.E. Shore
   - Stargazing at the Carr Observatory
     August 13, 2026 | 7:30 pm | L.E. Shore
   - Exhibit Opening: Under Foot and Over Head
     August 29, 2026 | 2-4 pm | L.E. Shore

H. Key Messages

Traditionally, the Board reviews and approves these key messages prior to release. However, as these messages simply serve to summarize Board meeting discussions, the Board unanimously agreed that formal Board approval will no longer be required moving forward.

I. Notice of Meeting Dates

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the L.E. Shore Boardroom, or at the call of the Chair.

All meetings and relevant agenda materials will be posted on the Meeting and Agenda page of Governance.

J. Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned 3:50 p.m.

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Julia Scott, Chair	Jennifer Murley, Board Secretary