



Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 22, 2025
*The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity
and empowers lifelong learning.*

Date: October 22, 2025

Place: Paris Branch

Present: John Bell, Paula Chorpitta, Susan Eddy, Nathan Etherington, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

Staff: Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

Call to Order: F. Gladding, in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of
None

Presentation- New Paris Branch Public Consultation Update and Next Steps

Daniel Comerford and Melody Martin presented a draft site study report for the shortlisted properties: 31 Mechanic Street, 199 Grand River Street North and 35 Curtis Avenue.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the location 35 Curtis Avenue be struck from the list of potential sites.

Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn by the mover prior to a vote.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT 31 Mechanic Street be removed from the list of sites under consideration.

Defeated

During further discussion, F. Gladding suggested the site 185 Grand River Street North, which recently came on the market. The Board expressed a desire to understand lifetime costs for each of the properties being studied.

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: S. Howes

THAT the CEO be directed to begin negotiations with representatives for 31 Mechanic Street, 199 Grand River Street North, 35 Curtis Avenue, and 185 Grand River Street North to determine more accurate pricing and report back to the Board.

Carried

2024 Library Financial Statements

Cameron Johnston CPA, Millards and Heather Mifflin, County Treasurer presented the 2024 Library Financial Statements to the Board.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: S. Eddy

THAT the Library's 2024 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

Carried

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the minutes of the September 24, 2025 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

Motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: E. Eddy

THAT the motion passed September 24, 2025 be amended by changing the forecasted dates for the New St. George Library capital project from 2031-2032 to 2028-2029.

Carried

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: S. Eddy

THAT the motion passed September 24, 2025 be amended by changing the forecasted dates for the new Glen Morris Library capital project from 2028-2029 to 2031-2032.

Carried

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the October Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: September 2025, be received.

Carried

Library Board Development

N. Etherington shared items on the OLBA agenda for Ontario Library Association Super Conference.

Submissions for Board Development

F. Gladding reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

Reports

K. Bernstein presented output measures for September 2025, noting growth in circulation and continued upward trends in foot traffic. Online Traffic and Community Engagement numbers have steadied and are once again on the rise, reflecting positive momentum in both digital and in-person library use.

K. Bernstein reviewed the monthly Statement of Operations. To date, 77% of the operating budget has been spent and spending remains on track for the year.

K. Bernstein reported that EarlyON has given notice to end its partnership for programming at the Paris Branch, effective December 2025, because it is moving locations to St. James Church. EarlyON and the Library had previously signed a letter of intent to expand services at the Library/Bawcutt Centre location upon its completion.

In response to a question, K. Bernstein shared that a household battery recycling service is offered in all branches.

Highlights from the “Something for Everyone” Library newsletter included Fanfest on November 1st, featuring a Heritage Ghost Walk and “Ghosts Among Us: Paranormal Experiences”, hosted by paranormal investigators.

The Paris Friends of the Library semi-annual book sale, held in October, raised \$895.

P. Chorpitta reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

N. Etherington presented draft changes to the Personnel Policy.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the Personnel Policy be approved as presented.

Carried

New Business

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2026 Board Meeting Schedule and the Draft 2026 Policy Review Schedule.

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by : A. Henderson

THAT the Draft 2026 Board Meeting Schedule and the Draft 2026 Policy Review Schedule be approved as presented.

Carried

Next Meeting

November 26, 2025 Paris Branch

Adjournment

S. Howes moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

Meeting adjourned.