

Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library Trustee Meeting

November 20, 2025, 3:30 pm

Present: Molly Pike, Erica Moses, Barb Woolston, Nichole Gambino, Gene Smith, Bobbi Patello, Caroline Mapes

Absent: Ash Gardener

The meeting was called to order by President Molly Pike at 3:36 PM.

Secretary's Report

- Approval of October minutes: Motion Proposed by Barb, Seconded by Gene, All were in favor.
- Correspondence
 - Thank you notes sent

Treasurer's Report

- Approval of October report
- Account Balances
 - Renovation Account
 - Previous Balance: \$11,901.13
 - Deposits/Credits: \$20,000.00
 - Checks/Debits: \$0.00
 - Ending Balance: \$31,901.13
 - General Account
 - Previous Balance: \$50,765.09
 - Deposits/Credits: \$363.86
 - Checks/Debits: \$5,399.55
 - Ending Balance: \$45,729.40
- Caroline made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bobbi, All were in favor.

Director's Report:

October Patron Count: 230 (3 New)

Items Added: 109

Items Discarded: 1

Total Circs: 253

Holds Rec'd: 50

Holds Filled: 82

Computer Use: 2

Libby Checkout: 216

Kanopy: 0

Mango: 0

JobNow: 0

Wifi Usage: 153 session / 28 unique clients

Out of Sys Loans: Still suspended

- Kanopy, Mango and JobNow all have advertisements on FB and the website. Flyers have also been posted.
- Discussion around publishing a Library Update in the JAG Newsletter.

D/O quote from Sloan came in with a premium of \$284. It gives us \$1 million in coverage without any of the extra options.

Eufy cameras \$440. Gives us 4, battery operated cameras and the home base which is 1TB of storage.

Staff evals were done and given to Ash and Caroline.

Old computers, printers, and fax machines were donated to the CTC students.

Applied for an ALA Sustainable Librarianship grant. It a four-part asynchronous e-course that helps to teach sustainable practices within a library setting. 100 public library workers will be chosen.

We won partial funding for the COSAC Outreach Mini-Grant that I applied for back in September. This was to start an “Accessible Reads” program that would bring hi-lo and dyslexic friendly font books into the library. They funded \$600 of the \$1000 that was asked for. The check has been received and deposited.

We have received five applications for Board Members.

Matt O’Brien from Allegany County Employment & Training is working with DSS to find volunteer sites, I let him know that we are more than happy to help.

I was asked to serve on an 8-person advisory committee for the upcoming ARSL project: Overcoming Obstacles: Enhancing Access to Professional Development for Solo Librarians. The project runs from December 2026 to September 2027 and is to explore the barriers solo librarians face when it comes to continuing education and professional development. The findings are to help with the creation of more accessible, field-informed training opportunities tailored to the realities of rural and small library professionals. This project is ILMS funded and I’ll be receiving a small honorarium for my time.

In addition, I’m also serving on ARSL’s advisory committee for 2026 and will be a mentor to a new librarian through ARSL.

Erica received a request for support for a local sports group who is looking to apply for grants.

- The board communicated that the library's EIN cannot be given out for this purpose.

Old Business:

- Directors/Officers insurance quote from Sloan
 - Molly made a motion to set up an insurance policy through Sloan insurance, Caroline seconded, all were in favor.
- HVAC-Estimate/for buildings grant in spring
 - Tabled for a future meeting.
- Security
 - Bobbi made a motion to purchase 4 cameras from Eufy, Caroline seconded, all were in favor.
- Budget Vote
 - Bobbi made a motion to accept the 2026 budget, Nichole seconded, All were in favor.
- Tax Cap
 - Whereas, the adoption of this 2026 budget for the Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library requires a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and
 - Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it
 - Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2026 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on November 20th, 2025.
 - Gene made a motion to override tax cap, Bobbi seconded, All were in favor.
- Floral activity for Christmas/Thanksgiving
 - 11 in attendance.
- Ornaments for tree in Park Circle
 - Will purchase new green stringed twinkle lights.
- Appoint new VP
 - Molly appointed Nichole Gambino as vice president.
- Discuss choosing new trustees
 - Molly read the applications of applicants to the board.
 - Discussed interview questions
- Received notification that the book club will no longer be using the upstairs space.

New Business

- Library Christmas Dinner
 - December 11th at L'Italia
- Open Hours and schedule for 2026
 - Bobbi made a motion to change the current library hours to a schedule where it is open for 23 hours in the winter and 25 in the summer and Gene seconded. All were in favor.

- Paid Federal Holidays
 - Gene made a motion to change the current paid holiday policy, Caroline seconded and all were in favor.

Next Meeting - January 15th, 2026 at 3:30 PM.

Adjournment: President Molly Pike adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Mapes

Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library Trustee Meeting

Special Meeting - December 9, 2025, 5:00 pm

Present: Molly, Erica, Caroline, Deb, Gene, Nichole, Ash, Barb, Bobbi

Absent: Erika

Agenda:

Call to order at 5:04 PM by President Molly Pike

- Furnace Repair
 - Heat exchanger has broken on one furnace. Lindsay's got back to us with quote: \$4800.00.
 - Estimate for AC unit is \$5000.00 for future meeting.
 - Gene makes a motion to spend \$4800.00 from the renovation account to repair the furnace through Lindsay's and Ash seconded. All were in favor.

Adjournment at 5:14 PM