

Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2026

Present: Molly Pike, Nichole Gambino, Erica Moses, Caroline Mapes, Barb Woolston, Miranda Hemphill, Gene Smith, Ash Gardener, Deb Burger, Bobbi Patello

Other Present: Meredith Chilson

Absent: None

Meeting Called to Order at 4:00 PM by President Molly Pike.

Welcome Miranda Hemphill to the board

Public Comment (5 min)

- Representing DAR
 - Meredith spoke about the connection between DAR and Belmont Library

Secretary's Report (5 min)

- Approval of January minutes
 - Deb made motion and Nichole seconded all in favor.
- Correspondence

Treasurer's Report (15 min)

- Approval of January report
 - Note here about the \$20,000 from the renovation account to be transferred eventually into the operating account (?)
 - Ash made a motion and Deb seconded. All were in favor.
- Updates
 - Yearbook ad has been placed at GVCSD
- Financial Review Information
 - Audit and Review Quotes
 - Linda Twigg minimum is \$3,600.
 - Edward Bysiek is a CPA and his quote for a review is \$3,500 and for an audit is \$5,000.
 - The board discussed paying for an audit or review of library finances.
 - The board decided to table the discussion until after tax season in May 2026.
- Account Balances:

Account	Previous Balance	Deposits/Credits	Checks/Debits	Ending Balance
General	\$111004.98	\$3082.11	\$6101.22	\$107985.87

Renovation	\$11901.13	\$20000.00	\$4800.00	\$27101.13
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Director's Report (15 min)

January Patron Count: 200 (3 New)
 Items Added: 48
 Items Discarded: 6
 Total Circs: 272
 Holds Rec'd: 56
 Holds Filled: 103
 Computer Use: 3
 Libby Checkout: 209
 Kanopy: 0
 Mango: 1
 JobNow: 0
 Wifi Usage: 137 session / 17 unique clients

Grant Updates:

- Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries
 - Applied for \$1000 for summer reading.
- ALA Resilient Communities: Advancing Sustainability in and through Libraries program
 - Erica was chosen for this program and took the training. She reported back on the key takeaways.
- 2024 Construction Aid Grant
 - We received the final payment.

Upcoming Programs:

March

- Stitch Burners
- Pop-Up Pictures Club – Cat in the Hat Movie
- Play and Stay
- Employment Support Drop – In
- Preschool Story Time (Spring Session, 6wk run)
- Teen Terrariums
- Possibly Tween/Teen Dungeons and Dragons

Other:

- Website Compliance Update
 - Have until April of 2027 to be fully compliant. Erica is working on this.
- Annual Report Update
 - Finished on our end, but waiting on NYS.
- STLS NorthStar Leadership Program

- Erica applied.

Committee Reports

- Building and Grounds
 - Basement
 - Door is stuck and has alignment issues.
 - Steps need a railing.
 - Need to cover floor to avoid tracking dirt upstairs.
 - Roof needs inspection
 - Library needs additional exit signs
 - Window repair may be an option for future construction aid grants.
- Policy, Personnel and Nominating
 - Had orientation with Miranda Hemphill
 - Discussed future treasurer for the Belmont Library.
 - Future treasurer could shadow Barb in April.

Unfinished Business

- Vote in new board member
 - Barb makes a motion and Deb seconds. All were in favor.
- Submit budget referendum language for ballot to school district
 - Submitted in January.
- Board Self-Evaluation
 - Caroline reviewed the report with the board.
- When do we submit for the buildings grant? What will be included?
 - June is the deadline for intent to apply and full grant is due in August.
- FOIL training update
 - Training date has passed.
 - Erica will email training links to board members.
- Office moved upstairs, do we need 2 key holders?
 - Molly and Christie have keys.
- Speaker upstairs for Adult programing, does DAR have a program?
 - Spoke to Meredith about this.
- Display upstairs—tabled until next meeting.
- Jag Newsletter
 - Erica reached out to Pam Winterhalter at the school and sent in an advertisement for approval.

New Business

- Community Quilt Preservation Project and relocation
 - Upstairs quilt needs conservation to protect the fabric.
 - Textile conservation foundation in the Hudson Valley has been located to clean, professionally photograph and preserve the quilt.

- We can package and send the quilt to Greater Hudson Heritage Network and they would send us a report with three tiers of conservation and quotes for the restoration.
- Discussed moving the quilt to the stairwell where it can be viewed by more patrons.
- Deb recommends sending the quilt in for a quote.
- Photographs of the quilt could be made into a puzzle for a fundraiser.
- Event could be held for the unveiling.
- Molly made a motion to spend \$200 plus shipping to send the quilt to the Greater Hudson Heritage Network for a report and Caroline seconded. All were in favor.
- Old clock face project—inspection and consultation, clean it, mount it
 - Molly reached out to Glenn Zwiegart at Alfred University to explore how to conserve or restore the old clock faces.
- Resignation
 - On 1/22/26, Erika Gaboriault tendered her resignation from the library board.

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2026 at 4:00 pm

Adjournment:

- Molly moves to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 PM and Caroline seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Mapes