

**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
 - \$20,000 was transferred from the renovation account to be transferred eventually into the operating general 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	\$111,004.98	\$3,082.11	\$6,101.22	\$107,985.87
Renovation	\$11,901.13	\$20,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$27,101.13

**Full detailed ledger reports and balance sheets are maintained at the Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library and are available for public inspection upon request in accordance with NYS Committee on Open Government guidelines.*

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