

## Whitehall Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026

Called to order in the Café at 7:01 pm.

Present: Liz Tuttle, Meg O'Brien, Tracy Brandtner, Barb Gjerstad, Anthony DiMinico (Library Director), Rich Kirsch (Council Representative)

Absent: Melissa Jones, Allie Brooks

- Introduction of Guests/Visitors
  - No guests /visitors were present.
- Public Input
  - N/A
- Approval of Agenda – unanimously passed
- Minutes of Last Meeting (January 2026) – unanimously passed
- Financial Reports (January 2026; General update) – unanimously passed
- Bill List (January 2026)- unanimously passed
- Director's Report (January 2026)- unanimously passed
- Highlights:
  - AARP tax service had a shortage of volunteers and the WPL only had half the number of appointments to offer. (158 appointments available to offer.) Within the first few hours of opening the schedule, there was a high demand for requests. Patrons who could not get an appointment at the WPL were referred to other locations. Alternate locations were filled quickly. The library may need to look at additional resources for this service for next year.
  - Excellent turnout for the children's events despite the weather conditions.
  - Adult programming was also well attended. Friday movies were very well attended.
  - South Hills Square requested to stop the on site book club. Books on wheels will continue to operate there.
  - Medieval dance class had 14 attendees. Patrons are requesting information about the next session. It was enjoyed by everyone.
  - The drum circle program was also well attended.
  - Craftlab was moved to Saturdays. The program was waitlisted due to popularity.
  - 50 % increase in page views on social media outlets.

- WPL was open for 195 hours for the month. The door counter has recently malfunctioned and has been removed. It will be replaced with a different model.
- Old Business
  - Board Member Update
    - Allie Brooks will return to the board in March from a leave of absence.
  - Board Documents Update
    - The board wants to update board documents. What do members think should be revised regarding documents? Forward this information to Liz Tuttle.
  - Committee Updates
    - Nominating Committee
      - Five candidates were interested and there were 3 interviews. All candidates were strong contenders. Deanna Gray was offered the open board position and she accepted.
      - The WPL board unanimously approved this appointment.
      - This will be placed on the agenda for the next Whitehall Council Meeting.
    - Fundraising Committee
      - No updates at this time.
    - Budget/Financial Committee
      - No updates at this time.
    - PR Committee
      - The committee will be planning a mixer between the board, staff, and the friends group to allow these groups that work together to get to know each other.
    - Strategic Planning
      - The committee will meet February 12th at 6:30 pm in the cafe to continue drafting the plan.
- New Business
  - Children's Library Status Update
    - An outside pipe froze and backed up. Water began leaking into the building. The wall had to be torn out and will need to be replaced. Due to the age of the building, asbestos testing will need to be completed. The children's section of the library will be closed until further notice for the proactive safety of patrons and staff.

- Announcements
  - Next Board Meeting: March 11, 2026, 7 pm
  - Whitehall Borough Council Meeting: February 18, 2026, 7 pm
  
- Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm