

Jean Waterloo Lenox Township Library
Library Board Meeting Minutes
for January 15, 2026

- 1) Call to Order at 6:01 pm by Oakley
- 2) Roll Call
 - a) Present: Beth Oakley, Melanie Cochrill, Pat Bruen (arriving at 6:10 pm), Larry Lubinski, Lee Hillis
 - b) Absent: John Notte
 - c) Staff: Beth Bogaert
 - d) Guests: Scott Brown
 - e) Public: 1
- 3) Approval of the Agenda: Hillis requested that two items, "Tree Removal" and "Construction Time Table," be added to the agenda under "President's Report: New Business." A motion was made by Cochrill, seconded by Lubinski, to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried.
 - a) Appoint Timekeeper: Cochrill volunteered to be time keeper.
- 4) Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
- 5) Secretary's Report
 - a) Meeting Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on December 18, 2025. A motion was made by Cochrill, seconded by Hillis to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- 6) Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Cochrill, seconded by Lubinski, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
 - a) Approval of Bills: Bills for December 2025 were reviewed. A motion was made by Cochrill, seconded by Lubinski, to approve the payment of bills for December. Motion carried.
- 7) Director's Report
 - a) Library Happenings: With the surplus food and clothing donations received in November and December, Talley-Hill created a Little Free Pantry out of the glass display cabinet. She will be visiting two 3rd grade classes at Merritt Academy in January and February, and will begin a science series for kids starting in February. Kumaus will be attending a cataloging webinar in April. The library has a high school student participating in job shadowing at the library.
- 8) President's Reports
 - a) Old Business
 - i) Expansion Exploratory Committee: Committee member Ken Thompson approached village leadership regarding onsite parking. They are open to future discussions, but have concerns over issuing variances. Cochrill discussed an action packet highlighting differences between a building tear down versus an expansion.

- (1) Lee Hillis Proposed Expansion Presentation: Hillis presented a survey showing proposed street parking that would preserve the current library structure. Hillis proposed engaging a civil engineer and will collect quotes to be presented at the February meeting.
- (2) Scott Brown – Polymath Proposal: Scott Brown presented a rough outline of proposed street parking as well. This plan would require a complete tear down of the existing structure. He also suggested we engage with a Construction Manager. Cochrill will gather quotes to be presented in February.
- ii) Main Street Property Updates: The application for rezoning the Main Street property is ready for submission. Oakley will sign it next week.
- iii) Gratiot Property Updates: None
- b) New Business
 - i) Library Staff Hours and Coverage Discussion: Bogaert discussed the current state of staffing. The board discussed the need for more staff. Bogaert reported that, as it stands, the staff functions well as is.
 - ii) Library of Things Public Discussion: Per a request from a citizen, Oakley discussed accessibility of the list of items in the Library of Things on the library website. Bogaert pointed to a link on the home page. Library staff are educated in the circulation and use of Library of Things items.
 - iii) Tree Removal: Hillis proposed removing the majority of trees from around the property on Main Street. It was suggested that members meet outside of the meeting to mark which trees to remove. Quotes for engaging tree removal services will be presented at February meeting.
 - iv) Construction Time Table: Hillis presented a time table for what construction could look like moving forward. The board reviewed it and discussed next steps.
- 9) Public Comments/Announcements: None
- 10) Next Meeting – February 19, 2026 at 6:00pm
- 11) Meeting Adjournment: A motion was made by Cochrill, seconded by Lubinski, to adjourn at 8:29pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Beth Bogaert, Library Director