

Whitefield Public Library
Board of Trustees Minutes*
February 9, 2026

Call to order at: 9:30am

Attendees: Courtney Vashaw, Katy Kopp, Cathy Atwood, Mary Ellen Cummins, Sondra Brekke, Judy Gessner, Diane Ash, Brian Cummins

Remote: Stuart Anderson, Lyn Schmucker, Michael Bruss, Mike Lee, Rick Vashaw

Approved minutes from January 12, 2026. No changes, no additions. Cathy moved, Katy approved.

Librarian's Report

Facilities

- Meeting with Stuart at 9:30am

Denial from the diocese. Moving forward with Plan B (Lancaster Road access).

Church will not allow easement. Stuart worked up Plan B for a new driveway access on Lancaster Road. We need to make official application to DOT, but DOT shortcomings will be that a crossing signal will need to be added on Lancaster Road.

These changes will not affect the 5, maybe 6 new parking spots.

There won't be any changes on interior.

The reading room stairway has been eliminated and the dumbwaiter will be used in place of the existing spiral staircase.

Judy asked about the cost to change the driveway to Lancaster Road. Stuart said it will cost more but the amount is unknown at this time.

Stuart said this is a good time to schedule a meeting to review finishes with the Trustee Design Committee. Courtney will give us some date options.

Judy asked Mike Lee if the town needs to approve the plans. Mike said the approval comes from the Zoning and Planning Board. Stuart will schedule a meeting with the Planning Board.

The Trustee President (Judy) signs off on the final renovation plans.

Michael said March 1 will be the earliest we go out to bid.

Financial

- Carnegie (\$10,000) and Family Place grants (\$3500) have arrived
- Grant season is in full swing. I've submitted 7 applications so far between the library and WOLF. 1 denial received due to change of funding priority.

Programming

The calendar has been emailed.

Community

- Libraries are protective factors against isolation, depression, chronic illness, and ignorance.

Mary Ellen asked that we stress these points when speaking with residents and there was a discussion on how to get our services shared to the public. Courtney suggested WOLF do a mailing to each household. There was much discussion about bullet points to add to a flyer. This should be done before town meeting, March 2 being ideal.

Board

We'll need another alternate to replace Jeannie. This is not mandatory but has been the practice the past few years.

Treasurer's Report

Sondra presented a budget spreadsheet and gave a CD update. Her Treasurer's Report is attached.

Other Business

Budget hearing tonight at Select board. Several will attend.

New Business

Mary Ellen would like to attend the NHLTA Spring Conference and apply for the Coos County grant which covers the cost. Courtney agreed.

Next Meeting March 9, 2026 at 10:00am

Adjourned 11:18AM

*These minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting.

