

**DEER PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 7:00pm**

**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Justin Belkin, President  
Anne Cognato, Secretary  
Mike Gonzalez, Trustee  
Susan Gaskin, Trustee

Michael Buono, Library Director  
Susan Zapata, Business Manager  
Joanne Krapf, Account Clerk

**EXCUSED**

John Gagliano, Vice President

**CALL TO ORDER**

Justin Belkin called the meeting to order at 7:02pm, and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by Susan Gaskin, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2025.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by Mike Gonzalez, the Board approved the current bills and Treasurer's Report.

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by Mike Gonzalez, the Board approved the continuation of a Certificate of Deposit.

The Board tabled the approval of bank signature cards.

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by Mike Gonzalez, the Board approved a revised, increased bandwidth Lightpath Service Order with Suffolk Cooperative Library System at a service level of 500 Mbps + SD-WAN for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031. This is an increase in speed approved as part of the same project that was approved at the December 17, 2025 Board meeting.

A proposed 2026-2027 budget was discussed. The Director explained the tax cap formula and growth factor as it applies to the budget. He also noted that while the fund balance is healthy, the Library will need 20% of a renovation project's total cost on hand. The Library's current fund balance is approximately 20% of previously proposed plans.

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**PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Upon a motion by Mike Gonzalez, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved Personnel Reports.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Upon a motion by Susan Gaskin, seconded by Mike Gonzalez, the Board approved an Annual Report for Budget Year 2025-2026 by the Director.

Upon a motion by Mike Gonzalez, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved the formation of two Board committees for Emerging Technology and Patron Engagement.

Statistics, incident reports, and correspondence were reviewed and discussed.

The Library Director discussed notification from the Suffolk County Department of Public Works regarding the library's inclusion in a future sewer installation project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mike Gonzalez, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board entered Executive Session at 8:53pm to discuss ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

Upon a motion by Mike Gonzalez, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board exited Executive Session at 9:12pm.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Board agreed to Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:00pm for the next monthly Board meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Susan Gaskin, seconded by Anne Cognato, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zapata  
Business Manager