NHH Northumberland Hills Hospital

MINUTES

Meeting:	Board of Directors
Date:	June 11, 2026
Time:	5:00pm
Place:	Boardroom/Virtual
Our Shared Purpose:	***People First***

Committee Members in Attendance:

☒ C. Gilmer, Chair	☒ M. McAllister, VC	☒ M. Noel	☒ L. Orpana
☒ C. Gervais	☒ C. Bell-Smith	☒ D. Morrison	☒ B. Nixon
☒ R. Stevenson	☒ S. Anderson	☒ L. Savoy	☒ K. Simmons
☒ M. Cassaday	☒ C. Low	☒ P. Ketov	☐ K. Zimmerman (joined In Camera only)
☒ L. Andrews	☒ R. Riley	☒ K. Everdell	☒ S. Walsh
☒ J. Gillard	☒ J. Fleming	☐ D. O'Brien (R)	☐ L. Obomighie (R)
☒ B. Oliver	☐ A. Wright (R)	☐ M. Cunningham (R)	☒ M. Cocchetto
☒ J. Huntley	☐	☐	☐

1.	**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
	B. Nixon provided the territorial acknowledgment.
2.	**CALL TO ORDER**
	C. Gilmer called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.
3.	**HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS**
	Northumberland Hills Hospital created the Health Professions Scholarship program in 2003 to help students from west Northumberland who have chosen to pursue a career in the healthcare sector. By helping local students achieve their academic goals, NHH hopes to encourage them to consider opportunities at this hospital when the time comes to select an employer. The recipients recognized this evening are pursuing different roles in our broader healthcare system. They have both demonstrated a very inspiring combination to commitment to their community and academic skills. C. Gilmer announced Aya Al-Ali and Vikaash Angusami Subasri, both residents of Cobourg, as the 2026 Health Professions Scholarship recipients. Aya could not attend in person,

however; provided a videotaped message that was played during the meeting. Vikaash joined by Zoom.

C. Gilmer noted both candidates will be receiving cheques for $1, 500 toward their studies. The Board offered them both best wishes as they work toward their next academic and professional goals. A media release will be shared on social medial channels sharing news of their achievements following the meeting.

4. EDUCATION SESSION: EXCELLENT CARE FOR ALL ACT

S. Walsh provided the education component of the board meeting sharing an overview of the Excellent Care for All Act (ECFAA) highlighting why the act exists, the role of the Board and legal responsibilities, external accountabilities, and fiduciary stewardship.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared.

6. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – April 9, 2026

The minutes of April 9, 2026, were approved on a Motion by B. Nixon and Seconded by S. Anderson. Carried.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 7.1 Quality and Safety report and 7.2 Governance Committee report were pulled from the consent agenda and discussed in greater detail as noted below.

7.1 <u>Quality and Safety Report- AODA</u>
A question was posed regarding the type of training staff receive related to AODA to support ongoing learning and whether this was face to face. S. Walsh shared online learning is part of a multi-year plan. Recently discussed at the Quality and Safety Committee was areas of support for those with hearing and visual challenges. Susan will follow up with L. Obomighie as this is within her portfolio on whether there is upcoming face-to-face learning planned. There is work being done related to the external space recommendations based on upcoming legislation. C. Bell-Smith noted the importance of involving people in the discussion.

7.2 <u>Governance Committee Report</u>
It was brought to the Chair's attention that the annual policy review and redlined version of Governance policies that were recommended by the policy working group this year, were included in the board package, however; there was no documentation in the previous Governance minutes to reflect a discussion and approval by that Committee to recommend for Board approval.

C. Gilmer discussed the redlined Governance policies were in the full board meeting package and suggested the Board review and provide any edits to the Executive Assistant. These will be shared with the Governance Committee for approval by electronic Motion. Policies are reviewed annually, which will be completed again in 2026-27.

The consent agenda matters were approved with amendments based on approval of the annual policy review edits in principle.

On a Motion by L. Orpana and Seconded by M. McAllister the Board approved the annual Governance redlined policies in principle. Carried.

	The consent agenda was approved on a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by L. Andrews. Carried.
8.	**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**
	8.1 <u>Report from the Board Chair</u> Welcome to our final Board meeting before the Annual Meeting, marking the close of another remarkable year. As reflected in the 2025–2026 Annual Report to the Community, it has been an exceptionally busy and successful year for Northumberland Hills Hospital. In keeping with our shared purpose of *People First*, I would like to recognize one of our own, Kendra Simmons, who received a Community Service Award from the Municipality of Port Hope on May 4. This award honours individuals who have demonstrated sustained dedication, compassion, and commitment to improving the lives of others and strengthening our community. Kendra, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. This past year has passed quickly, perhaps because of the significant amount of work accomplished by the Board. Much of that work stemmed from our commitment to reviewing our governance practices against the Ontario Hospital Association's *Guide to Good Governance*. Beyond carefully studying this comprehensive resource, we undertook a thorough review and update of numerous policies, procedures, committee terms of reference, and Board process documents. One notable example was our review of all Board Committee Terms of Reference to ensure they clearly articulated our responsibilities for organizational risk oversight. While this oversight has always been part of our work, these revisions have strengthened the clarity and transparency of our accountabilities. This effort was undertaken alongside our regular committee work plans and core governance responsibilities. Collectively, we should be proud of what we have achieved. NHH is an exceptional organization, and it deserves a Board committed to governance excellence and continuous improvement. Thank you to all Directors for your dedication, thoughtful contributions, and hard work throughout the year. Your efforts have positioned the Board well for future opportunities and challenges. I would also like to recognize and thank four members who will be completing their terms at the end of this year: Don, Bree, Laurel, and Mary Anne. Don, thank you for your wisdom, perspective, and longstanding commitment to this hospital. The countless hours you have devoted to NHH over the years have left a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for your service. Bree, thank you for your clear thinking, practical approach, and determination to keep us moving forward. Your focus and commitment to getting the work done have been invaluable. Laurel, thank you for sharing your deep knowledge of our community and your understanding of the importance of strong partnerships. You consistently helped us keep the broader picture in view. Mary Anne, thank you for your thoughtful analysis and clarity of thought. Your ability to challenge us to consider what we were truly trying to say strengthened our policies, terms of reference, and governance framework, leaving us better positioned for the future.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our Nominations Committee. Their ongoing efforts to recruit and recommend a diverse, talented, and knowledgeable Board will serve both the organization and our community well in the years ahead.
It has been an honour to serve alongside each of you. Together, we have continued to strengthen the governance of NHH and support the exceptional care provided to our patients and community.

8.2 Report from the CEO
S. Walsh provided an update on hospital initiatives and current activities. Minister Sylvia Jones, MPP Piccini and Dr. Jane Philpott attended NHH on June 9th to participate in a hospital tour as well as a roundtable with key partners and physicians to discuss primary care. NHH hosted the event which was led by MPP Piccini.

The federal government has recently released Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy. This will guide the hospital's own planning and preparedness for use and policy development related to AI. The topic of AI will be a future education session with the Board.

Susan noted she will share a year over year update at the upcoming Annual Meeting reflecting on the number of projects completed over the past year and achievements.

UKG, NHH's new payroll scheduling system, led by Executive Sponsor Lola Obomighie, has been rolled out over the past weeks. The system which involves staff "tapping in and tapping out" will allow for efficiencies in payroll processes.

Several recognition events will be held in the month of June recognizing National Disability week, Pride activities including a fireside chat planned for June 30th on the topic of Queer Ageing and Endings. NHH hosted ROMP students once again, and the GMSA held its Annual meeting June 4th.

Long service awards were also held on the evening of June 10th with fifty-two individuals in attendance celebrating over 975 years of service to the hospital. Of note, one individual was recognized for 45 years of service, which is a remarkable achievement.

NHH hosted Governor General Leadership Conference recipients, a number of individuals from several geographic areas. This was an opportunity for information sharing and to provide awareness of NHH and the healthcare landscape.

Jennifer Gillard will be presenting the first "Heart of Experience Award" formally the Experience Partner Award for Exceptional Service in recognition of PFAC member service and contributions. The award has now been broadened to include PFAC, staff, physicians and volunteers, both individual and teams' awards. Jennifer shared, twenty-seven nominations have been received for this inaugural award in four categories.

Building on the relationship with Alderville First Nations, a working group has been struck to co-design the role on an Indigenous Navigator with the goal to finalize the role and responsibilities and have in place by September, before National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

8.3 Report from the NHH Foundation
C. Low, provided the NHH Foundation report sharing in her last report, the Pickleball tournament had not yet happened, the Smile Cookie campaign was still a month away, and I had asked you to save the date for Wine and Ale ticket sales. Today, I am pleased to share the success of all three initiatives, starting with Pickleball.

Held on May 2nd, our first-ever pickleball tournament at the newly opened Dink Den drew a full field of enthusiastic players. Participants shared glowing feedback about the day and expressed strong interest in seeing the event return next year. We had set a goal of raising $25,000 in our inaugural year, and I am thrilled to report that we surpassed it, raising $29,000, a full 16% above target. The Hospital family was out in full force, with representation from physicians, front-line staff, Board members, and even Jennifer Gillard making her pickleball debut.

We have also announced the grand total for this year's Smile Cookie campaign, an incredible $88,000. We are deeply grateful to everyone who volunteered – whether you took one shift of four (like Board Chair Cyndi). Coordinating such a large volunteer effort was no small task, but the results speak for itself.

As many of you know, Wine and Ale tickets sold out in just five minutes, beating last year's record of eleven. While we recognize this may be disappointing for those who did not secure tickets, it is worth noting that many attendees this year are first timers. This gives us a valuable opportunity to build new relationships and deepen our connection with the community.

Finally, a reminder that our Annual General Meeting will take place next week on June 17th at 4pm in the Community Education Centre. Please know that all of you are welcome to attend.

8.4 Report from the NHH Auxiliary
R. Riley provided the NHH Auxiliary report. The Auxiliary retail operations continue to thrive. Both Petticoat Lane and the Little Treasure Shop experienced record sales over recent months, and we look forward to sharing the final results of our fundraising efforts in the upcoming annual report and annual meeting. Both retails operations continue to have an abundance of great volunteers who represent both the stores and NHH with pride, energy, and enthusiasm.

The Little Treasure Shop, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Cobourg and the amazing offer from Micki McLean at Palisades Gardens who has graciously agreed to host a fashion show put on by Dale and her capable team! There may still be a few tickets left so if you are interested, please see Dale. The date is June 17th from 2-4pm.

We are still collaborating with the Landlord of Petticoat Lane to increase our retail footprint and hope to have news on this soon.

	8.5 Finance and Audit Report – Motions M. McAllister discussed an annual requirement of the Finance and Audit Committee is the re-appointment of audit services. KPMG LLG has been NHH's financial auditors following a renewal of their agreement extending their services for a five-year period. They are currently in year three of that agreement. A renewal of the auditors will be required in 2028. The Finance and Audit Committee is bringing a recommendation to the Board to re-appoint KPMG LLG as NHH's auditors for 2026-27. **On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by D. Morrison the Board of Directors approved the re-appointment of KPMG LLP as financial auditors for the provision of audit services for the fiscal year 2026-27. Carried.** M. McAllister indicated the draft 2025-26 audited financial statement was pre-circulated with the agenda package. KPMG has declared the audit a "clean audit." The Finance and Audit Committee recommends approval of the 2025-26 audited financial statement to the Board for approval. **On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by M. Cassaday, the Board of Directors approved the draft financial audit statement for 2025-26 as presented. Carried.**
	8.6 Governance Committee Report – Motion S. Anderson discussed the NHH Foundation, and the NHH Board co-created a relationship agreement in 2022 to provide a shared understanding of how both boards would work together. The agreement was reviewed by the Foundation Board with suggested language changes. The changes were reviewed by the Governance Committee May 28th with the recommendation to present to the board for approval. **On a Motion by S. Anderson and Seconded by M. Noel, the Board of Directors approved the NHHF and NHH Relationship agreement as presented. Carried.**
	The Board of Directors accepted all reports as presented on a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by. S. Anderson. Carried.
9.	**OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**
	There was no other business or correspondence to discuss.
10.	**IN-CAMERA SESSION**
	On a Motion by B. Nixon and Seconded by L. Orpana the Board moved to In-Camera. The In-Camera meeting addressed matters related to medical human resources and financial matters.
11.	**ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**
	On a Motion by M. McAllister, the Board rose from In-Camera. There being no other business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned on a Motion by B. Nixon at 7:20pm.