

Library Board of Trustees

Somers Public Library

21 May 2024

Members Present: Catherine Embriano, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Marybeth Marquardt, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha

Absent/Excused: Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber, John Kelleher

Also Present: Joanne Nichting (Library Director) Eugene Grayson (Past Board Member)

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order @ 6:35 pm

First Audience to citizens: Bob Socha spoke about the memorial service for Lois Lindell. He brought in a copy of the bulletin that was used at her service. Lois served on the library board of trustees for twelve years (2 full terms). Andy spoke on what a great person she was. Bob also inquired about a town resident who wanted to donate a bench or something in her parent's name to the library. Joanne & Board to discuss further. Eugene Grayson would like to speak when we are talking about the investment committee.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the 16 April 2024 were presented and reviewed. Mr. Kertenis moved: seconded by Ms. Embriano. Abstentions: Mr. Phillips

Correspondence: Libraries of Connecticut Association Board Newsletter.

Financial Business: Schwab did well last month. John Ruocco (Library Investment Advisor) was paid his semiannual fee. T.O.Somers would like us to do weekly deposits in lieu of monthly. We received \$1,442.00 in "State Aide." We last received state aide in 2016. Neelan's trust money was received. Guinea pig vet bill motioned, 2nd and approved. Carol Palomba memorial monies are still being received. Rockett CD will mature on 20 June '24. Ms. Marquardt to reach out to Andy for direction. YTD Budget was reviewed and everything is on target. About 81% expended. The "Investment Committee" was discussed and that the board should look in to reforming the group and bring up to date with new ideas and technology. Eugene Grayson offered to act as a liaison consultant and to draft up some ideas.... He also recommended just 3 members as opposed to the "5" as the other member option. Andy, Jack and Marybeth are tentatively the 3 members, with Andy stepping down if John is interested. Revisit during June Meeting.

Committee Reports: Jack reported on the FOL. They had a 13 May meeting @ Figaro Restaurant in Enfield, CT. Their Spring Book Sale was successful. This year marks the 50th

anniversary of the “Friends of the Library.” NEW PROGRAMMING POLICY. Director Joanne spoke regarding programming.... Everything has to be approved by the director. Such items to be considered would be; criteria, cost, relevancy, need, etc.... Marybeth made a Motion, seconded by Kathy. Motion passed.

Old Business: Angel Fund was discussed and questions answered. Vending Machine was installed and currently making money...

New Business: Ann questioned whether the “Blake Room” could be used as an indoor back-up for the Cultural Commission’s Thursday/ Saturday outside concert in case of inclement weather. This request would be for summer of 2025. Ms. Nichting discussed the safety of kids riding their bikes in the parking lot. It was decided that she should refer this to the town’s attorney for his opinion.

Director’s Report: Ms. Nichting presented her report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation, meeting space usage, and other updates on library happenings. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:46 pm. The next meeting will be 18 June '24 @ 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Socha

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED @ A SUBSEQUENT MEETING