

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
November 19, 2024

Members present: Catherine Embriano, Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque,
Marybeth Marquardt, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

First Audience to Citizens: John Ruocco of Asset Management Associates joined the meeting to provide the Board an update on the investment markets and the performance of the endowment funds. He reviewed the make-up of the most recent balance, including a summary of the net investments and withdrawals. The Board discussed the logistics of future withdrawals to fund new capital projects and paperwork was completed to remove Eugene Grayson from the account and add Treasurer Marybeth Marquardt. Mr. Ruocco then exited the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October 15, 2024 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Socha moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Abstentions: Mr. Gruber, Mr. Kelleher, Ms. Levesque. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: The library received a thank you card from a Somers mom whose children visit the library afterschool. Ms. Nichting read the note to the Board, noting that the mom included Starbucks gift cards for the staff as a token of her family's appreciation of the library and the staff.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Significant deposits reflected recent donations received from the Hazel Neelans trust and a sizable donation from a patron to express his appreciation for the library and the services it offers. Also noted was the purchase of the Tonie boxes for the children's room, which was previously approved by the Board. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY25 year-to-date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. There was nothing notable to report. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Friends of the Library – At their most recent meeting they indicated that their Fall Book Sale netted them just over \$4,000. They opted to let the Old Sturbridge Museum pass, that they funded, lapse due to lack of use. They approved funding for all library events and programming supplies requested. Their Santa Celebration will be on December 7th.

Old Business:

Pavilion - Mr. Socha and Ms. Nichting discussed the visit to Kloter Farms and presented pictures of various pavilions with different options. Final cost estimates will be obtained and presented at the next meeting during which time the Board will vote on the project.

Blake Room A/V Equipment – Ms. Nichting met with a third-party provider who noted that all of the current equipment looks good. No proposed replacements at this time.

New Business:

Security Cameras – Ms. Nichting informed the Board about some recent minor, but troublesome, vandalism that occurred near the staff entrance. She suggested that when we add security cameras to the courtyard after the pavilion is constructed, the Board may want to consider adding a few others in areas currently not being monitored. More will follow as we get closer to executing the pavilion project.

2025 Holiday Schedule – Ms. Nichting presented her proposed holiday schedule for 2025 library closings, which mostly aligns with the Town’s schedule. Mr. Socha moved to approve the proposed schedule. Ms. Levesque seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Socha amended his motion to add an additional day, December 26th, for 2025 only as it falls on a Friday. Ms. Levesque seconded the amended motion. Motion passed.

Holiday Gifts - Ms. Embriano moved to provide \$100 per person for the library staff holiday gifts, along with spending up to \$300 collectively on gifts for the volunteers and other service providers. Seconded by Mr. Socha. Motion passed.

Director’s Report:

Ms. Nichting presented her Director’s Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation, meeting space usage, and other updates on library happenings. Special mention was made regarding the new library event software, meetings Ms. Nichting attended in the last month, and the teen programming that is happening in collaboration with the Human Services Department.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting will be December 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING