

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
December 17, 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 6:34 PM.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Embriano moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Minutes unanimously approved.

Correspondence: The library received a thank you card and \$150 donation from the Northern Connecticut Remote Control Club in appreciation for allowing them to use the library as a meeting space.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. It was noted that the Schwab account increased in value this past month. Ms. Nichting highlighted several transactions, including the payment of the CT Library Consortium fees and the holiday staff gifts. 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:

Budget Committee – Mr. Phillips reported that he, Mr. Gruber, and Ms. Nichting met to review the library's budget proposal prior to its submission to the Town. A copy of the submitted budget was provided to the Board for review. Ms. Nichting noted a couple of changes in expense categories and provided supporting documentation for each line item. Ms. Nichting will present the budget to the Board of Selectmen at a meeting on February 13, 2025 beginning at 6PM.

Old Business:

Pavilion - Mr. Socha updated the Board on his investigation and legwork on the pavilion project. He made the following motion:

For the Board to approve up to \$100,000 to create an outside facility/space to be used by the library and other groups in the Town of Somers for the benefit of those mentioned above. The \$100,000 would include any and all taxes, permits and fees, architectural concerns, and incidentals up to and including, but not limited to: the preparation and public safety, barricades, demolition, site and earthwork, drainage, concrete work, building manufacture and erection costs, weather-proofing/siding, electrical & lighting, low-voltage/security, furniture, furnishings, and equipment including audio-visual equipment, benches, tables and storage lockers.

Also included in this motion is that the new area be dedicated to Hazel Neelans for her 30+ years of donations that enabled the library to create this space and that local contractors be given the chance to bid on their respective trades and be recognized on a dedication plaque in addition to Ms. Neelans.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Gladysz. Discussion ensued. Mr. Socha amended his motion to specify that the pavilion project would be funded from the endowment and private donations. Ms. Gladysz seconded. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor and Mr. Socha abstaining.

New Business: None

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 of several items in her report, including some challenges with the teens who don't participate in the afterschool programming, the success of the Santa Celebration, and a local area artist whose work is now on exhibit at the library. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM. The next meeting will be January 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING