

Library Board of Trustees  
Somers Public Library  
September 16, 2025

Members present: Lori Bourgoin, Lisa Gladysz, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Andy Phillips  
Members absent: Mike Gruber, Marybeth Marquardt, Bob Socha  
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director  
Gene Grayson, Community Member  
Catherine Embriano, Community Member

Prior to convening the meeting, the Board was informed that Catherine Embriano resigned from the Board as she is moving out of Somers. The Somers Republican Town Committee appointed Ms. Lori Bourgoin to carry out Ms. Embriano's remaining term. Ms. Bourgoin will run for election in November. It was also announced that neither Mr. Phillips nor Ms. Gladysz will be running for re-election in November.

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

*First Audience to Citizens:*

Mr. Grayson introduced himself to the Board noting that he will be running for election in November. Mr. Grayson previously served on the Somers Library Board, as well as held other public service positions in the past.

Ms. Embriano showed appreciation for her time on the Board and gave compliments to all of the things Ms. Nichting and the library staff are doing in service to the Somers community.

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Levesque moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kelleher. Abstentions: Mr. Phillips, Ms. Gladysz, Ms. Bourgoin. Minutes approved.

*Correspondence:* The Board received a thank you letter from New England Donor Services in appreciation for the donation made in memory of William Aloisa.

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Ms. Nichting made note of a couple items, including the increased value of the endowment fund and the new library chairs. The report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:*

The FY25 year-to-date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. She reiterated for the Board that the line item "Library Materials" now encompasses all materials patrons may borrow regardless of format. It was also noted that the Automated Services line is 93% spent, which is typical for this time of year due to the upfront payments for the year for Bibliomation. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

Friends of the Library – Mr. Kertenis reported on the recent FOL meetings. He indicated that Ms. Nichting's last requests were approved and that the Friends were changing the way they are spending. To eliminate voting on individual programs, the Friends allotted to Ms. Nichting \$10,154.54 to be spent on programs this year. They also allotted \$2,660

for museum passes. Ms. Nichting indicated this represents an approximate \$5,000 decrease from last year. Mr. Kertenis also reported that the Friends held their officer elections and that the next book sale will take place October 17 – 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to the creation of the Teen Center in the Blake Room, there are also box and book storage concerns which the Friends are addressing.

Policy Committee – Mr. Phillips and Ms. Nichting presented and discussed new and revised policies for the Board's consideration that include new language required by Connecticut statute. These policies include: Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, Library Programming Policy, Displays and Exhibits Policy, and Review and Consideration Policy. Specific elements and changes were highlighted. Ms. Gladysz made a nomination to approve the four presented policies; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. The results were as follows:

- Collection Development and Maintenance Policy – Approved; Ms. Bourgoïn abstained
- Library Programming Policy – Approved; Ms. Bourgoïn abstained
- Displays and Exhibits Policy – Approved; Ms. Bourgoïn abstained
- Review and Consideration Policy – Approved; Ms. Bourgoïn abstained

*Old Business:*

Pavilion Update - Due to the absence of three Board members, discussion on the pavilion was tabled until the next meeting.

*New Business:*

Part-time Employee – Ms. Nichting alerted the Board that she is considering a paid part-time position for after school monitoring.

Landscaping – Ms. Nichting requested that the Board consider using endowment funds to pay for library landscaping. Due to the nature of the ornamental plantings, the library requires more landscape maintenance than what the DPW can currently provide. It was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting when more Board members are present.

Cameras at Outside Doors – Ms. Nichting asked the Board to consider funding additional cameras for the exterior of the library. Recent events have highlighted the need for outdoor visibility. The Board agreed it was a good idea and asked Ms. Nichting to obtain a quote from Sonitrol.

Funding for Library Programs – Ms. Nichting asked the Board to consider using endowment funds for additional library programming. Due to the perceived reduction in funding from the Friends of the Library and the success of recent adult programs, more investment in programming is desired. Discussion ensued. Ms. Gladysz moved to spend \$2,000 of endowment funds for additional adult programs. Seconded by Ms. Bourgoïn. Motion unanimously approved.

Opening on Sunday, 10/19 – Due to the Friends' book sale in October, Ms. Levesque moved to open the library that day from 10 AM to 2 PM. Mr. Kertenis seconded. Motion unanimously 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 events. She also explained in more detail the creation of the Teen Center in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, recent behavior issues, and the tremendous success of both the child and adult summer reading programs. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting will be on October 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING