

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
January 28, 2025
(Rescheduled from January 21, 2025)

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

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December 17, 2024 meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Levesque moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Embriano. Minutes unanimously approved.

Correspondence: The Board received a thank you card from Francie Clark for the staff Christmas gift.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. It was noted that the Schwab account marginally decreased in value by approximately \$453 this past month. The December donation from the Northern CT Radio Control Club was noted, but there were no other significant items to report. 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:

Policy Committee – Mr. Phillips, on behalf of the Policy Committee, presented the proposed Library of Things Policy. The policy was drafted by Ms. Nichting based on similar policies of surrounding libraries and reviewed by the Committee. The policy includes an Informed Consent Waiver for patrons to sign prior to checking out any Things. Mr. Kertenis moved to approve the policy as presented; seconded by Ms. Embriano. The policy was unanimously approved.

Friends of the Library – Mr. Kertenis reported on the latest meeting of the Friends, noting their renewal of the Book Pages publication, the cost and copies of which will be split with the Stafford library. In addition, the Santa celebration was a success with approximately 115 kids participating. He also noted that book sale planning and potential pricing adjustments were discussed and that the Friends approved all of the library's requests for funding.

Old Business:

Pavilion - Mr. Socha presented the renderings of the proposed pavilion which were well received by the Board. Discussion ensued regarding potential storage options, closing in walls, and possible extensions to the building dimensions. Payment for the renderings was previously approved. Mr. Kertenis moved to pay \$100 to DG Graphics for large prints of the renderings. Mr. Gruber seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The next step will be to present the proposed project to the town selectmen at a meeting in February.

New Business:

Teen Code of Conduct: Ms. Nichting presented a proposed Teen/Tween Code of Conduct Agreement for unaccompanied minor patrons. There have been some recent behavioral issues resulting in expulsion from the library for a period of time. The library already has a patron behavior policy in place. This new agreement would be an acknowledgement that the teen/tween and their parent/guardian read and understood the policy. The form also includes parent contact information in the event of an emergency or behavioral issue that needs to be addressed. Ms. Embriano moved to approve the agreement as presented. Seconded by Ms. Gladysz. Motion unanimously approved.

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. Special mention was made of several items in her report, including the readiness of the Library of Things collection, the Tonie Boxes in the Children's Room, computer replacement plans, availability of the CT library statistics, and the expiration of certain book contracts, among other things. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting will be on February 18, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING