

Library Board of Trustees  
Somers Public Library  
November 18, 2025

Members Present: Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Marybeth Marquardt,  
Bob Socha, Gene Grayson, Jason Snukis, Lori Bourgoin  
Also Present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director  
Tim Welch, Community Member

Before the meeting, newly elected board members, Jason Snukis, Gene Grayson, and Lori Bourgoin, were sworn in by the Somers Town Clerk, David Marti.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Introduction of New Trustees/Elected Officers:* Newly established board members were selected as follows:  
Chairperson: Mr. Grayson (nominated by Mr. Socha and seconded by Ms. Levesque)  
Secretary: Ms. Bourgoin (nominated by Ms. Marquardt and seconded by Mr. Grayson)  
Treasurer: Ms. Marquardt (nominated by Mr. Socha and seconded by Ms. Levesque).  
All nominations approved.

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the October 21, 2025 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Socha moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Levesque. Abstentions: Mr. Grayson and Mr. Snukis. Minutes approved.

*Correspondence:* Ms. Nichting reviewed thank-you notes from departing board members Andy Phillips and Lisa Gladysz.

*Treasurer's Report:* Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of the report. Ms. Marquardt requested another representative on the financial accounts, considering the departure of board members. Mr. Grayson will be added to the account. Ms. Marquardt will contact the financial advisor to gather details on the process and report back. The report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:* The FY26 year-to-date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting, who noted that our YTD results were typical for this time of year.

*Committee Reports:* Committee responsibilities were reviewed in consideration of departing board members. Decision was made not to form Personnel, Building Management, or Technology Committees at this time. The following selections were made:

Budget Committee - Mr. Grayson, Mr. Socha, and Mr. Gruber  
Investment Committee - Mr. Grayson, Ms. Marquardt, and Mr. Kertenis (three-member minimum required).  
Policy Review Committee - Ms. Levesque, Mr. Snukis, and Mr. Kelleher  
Friends of the Somers Library Liaison – Mr. Kertenis

Friends of the Library - Mr. Kertenis reviewed the success of the recent book sales event, which resulted in over \$5,000 in sales. The Friends of the Library will now provide a set amount of funds to be used for programming and museum passes, rather than approving them individually. Additional funds may also be requested if needed.

Budget - Ms. Nichting reviewed the budget proposal document for FY27. It included a less than 1% increase from last year. She also noted that she has never gone over budget in her tenure. Salaries are determined at the Selectman level. Programming costs are increasing, and Friends of the Library also contribute. Automated Services include Bibliomation subscription, phones, internet software, a computerized event calendar, antivirus software, and more. Supplies increased due to common inflation. Mr. Socha requested a list of withdrawals from the endowment fund for review. Ms. Nichting will provide the information for the past year at the next board meeting.

*Old Business:*

Pavilion update – Mr. Socha suggested that the board start anew in deciding on the concept for the recommended pavilion behind the library. Specifically, ensure that the initial goals of the project are clearly understood when deciding on next steps. Mr. Socha will meet with Ms. Nichting to discuss further, and they will present their thoughts to the board at a future meeting.

Landscaping – Ms. Nichting will meet with landscape architects and receive quotes for the cost of their work in creating a new design that will require less maintenance than what we currently have. These quotes will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Camera Installation - The updated Sonitrol proposal was reviewed. The revised cost structure was reduced by \$1,200 from a previous quote after negotiation, for a total of \$12,575. Mr. Gruber moved to approve spending \$12,575 to install the three new cameras. Mr. Grayson seconded, and the vote was unanimously approved.

*New Business:*

Ms. Nichting suggested giving volunteer/building staff holiday gifts as per previous custom. Mr. Gruber moved to spend up to \$400 on holiday gifts for volunteers/building staff. Ms. Lesveque seconded, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Ms. Nichting suggested giving staff holiday gifts as per previous custom. Ms. Marquardt moved to spend \$1,100 for staff holiday gifts. Ms. Bourgoin seconded, and the vote was unanimously approved.

The concept of offering scholarships was presented by Mr. Socha and discussed. No final determination was made, and the topic will be continued for further review.

Going away gift expenses for outgoing trustees Andy Phillips, and Lisa Gladysz of \$184.30 were incurred last month. Motion to approve payment of these expenses was made by Mr. Kertenis, seconded by Ms. Marquardt. 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. Ms. Nichting reviewed a letter sent by the Somers Chief Financial Officer to the owner of a Certificate of Deposit in the

Library's name. Request was made to close the account by the end of the calendar year or else the town will assume the funds. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Bourgoïn

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING