

**Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
January 20, 2026**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Grayson.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 16, 2025, meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Kertenis moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Mr. Kelleher.
Vote: All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: Ms. Nichting reviewed a personalized thank-you card from a library employee expressing appreciation for the holiday bonus provided by the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report and noted that investments increased by \$16,841 since last month due to market performance.

Mr. Grayson discussed scheduling an Investment Committee meeting and requested participants. Ms. Marquardt and Mr. Kertenis will join the existing committee. The meeting has been scheduled for February 13th.

Financial Business: Ms. Nichting presented the FY26 year-to-date financial report. She noted that year-to-date results are typical for this time of year, with expenses currently spent at 53% of the budget. She further explained that the budget includes a technology buffer should new computers be required. Town funding provided a computer grant last year. Increased supply costs were attributed to inflation.

Note: The Selectman budget review meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 6:00 PM. Ms. Nichting requested Board members be present for her library budget presentation.

Committee Reports: Mr. Kertenis reviewed highlights from a recent Friends of the Library meeting. The recent book sale and Santa celebration were successful, and a new member has joined the Friends of the Library committee.

Old Business:

Pavilion Update:

An upcoming visit to Kloter Farms will be scheduled to review gazebo options that align with the goals of the project.

Landscaping:

Ms. Nichting scheduled a February 2026 board presentation with the prospective landscaping architect. The cost for the vendor presentation is \$200, a decrease from the \$300 previously approved.

Camera Installation / Security System:

Ms. Nichting reviewed updates regarding the library's camera security system. The previously approved Sonitrol quote was \$12,575 for three additional cameras. Because town approval is required for expenditures over \$10,000, additional due diligence is underway, including review of a proposal from Total Protection, the vendor used for the security systems on all other town properties. A detailed quote from the town is pending.

Ms. Nichting also noted that Spot AI, a camera vendor used by the town, offers a leasing option. The library currently has ten cameras; Spot AI would provide a total of seventeen cameras at a cost of \$7,258.51 for 29 months, including installation. A decision is pending further information from the town.

*New Business:***Library Programming Costs:**

Ms. Nichting reviewed data outlining the wide range of library programs, which have been very popular within the community. The Friends of the Library currently fund the majority of programming costs, with an average annual expense of approximately \$10,000. Given the success of these programs, Ms. Nichting proposed increasing their volume and requested additional funding.

Mr. Kertenis moved to approve \$6,000 for additional programming over the next 12 months. The motion was seconded by Ms. Levesque. Vote: All were in favor. Funding approved.

Director's Report:

Ms. Nichting presented her Director's Report, which included updates on library operations, program attendance, circulation statistics, meeting space usage, and upcoming events.

Ms. Nichting also noted that a Freedom of Information Zoom meeting is scheduled for the following day by the CT Assoc. of Library Boards, and all Board members are welcome to attend.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Bourgoin

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING