

**Library Board of Trustees  
Somers Public Library  
May 19, 2026**

Members Present: Ann Levesque, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Marybeth Marquardt,  
Jason Snukis, Bob Socha Lori Bourgoin, Mike Gruber

Absent: Gene Grayson

Also Present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director  
Todd Rolland, Director Department of Public Works

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

Mr. Socha made a motion for Mr. Kertenis to facilitate the meeting due to Mr. Grayson's absence. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor.

*Audience to Citizens/Guest:* Mr. Todd Rolland, Director, Dept. of Public Works

This follow-up presentation by Mr. Rolland provided pricing information and suggested a strategy for the landscaping and pavilion projects.

1. Landscaping Update

Mr. Rolland provided an update on the impending landscaping work by Frank's Landscaping in conjunction with the DPW, using the budget of \$10,000. It was suggested that the two areas in front of the building maintain their current form rather than being replaced with concrete as earlier discussed. Work would continue with the removal of the smaller parking lot island, and seeding and tree planting in the larger center island. Further, he reviewed the back of the building pavilion concrete slab pricing. Mr. Rolland will gather the required additional quotes for concrete vendors and report back to the board.

2. Blake Room Maintenance

Ms. Nichting requested approval for wall painting and floor maintenance work in the Blake Room. Following several years, repair and painting of the walls and maintenance of the flooring is required to maintain the aesthetics. Mr. Rolland will gather pricing for the Board's consideration.

*Approval of Minutes:* The minutes from the May 19, 2025, meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Levesque moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

*Correspondence:* A letter was received from M&T Bank stating that the CD in the library's name established under the Rockett Fund for approximately \$6,000.00 will be turned over to the state as unclaimed funds due to over three years of dormancy. The account is owned by

Andrew Rockett. It was decided that the Library Board would not pursue these funds or act in any way unless directed.

*Treasurer's Report:* Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Socha requested information with regard to the advisor fee and our agreement with the financial advisor. The finance committee agreed to review the information with the advisor and advise the board of the details at a later date.

*Financial Business:* Ms. Nichting presented the FY26 year-to-date financial report. At 80%, the overall results are well within budget.

*Committee Reports:* Mr. Kertenis advised that the Friends of the Library are thankful for the celebratory dinner paid for by the board in appreciation of their work on behalf of the library. The recent book sale was a success. There was a discussion to increase the book costs next year based on research of other libraries.

*Old Business:* Ms. Nichting provided an update on the S. Prestly Blake Trust donation. Mr. Blake's attorneys were seeking tax exemption information to release the \$500,000 from the trust. Specific documents were not requested. Ms. Nichting sent a letter to them from the IRS stating that as a municipality, there should be a tax exemption. Since that time, communication from the attorney has ceased. Ms. Nichting will work with the new town attorney later this month in order to resolve the funds distribution issue with the Blake attorney.

*New Business:* None

*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. She advised that the new Passport to CT program was very well received, with over 200 participants. The additional cameras have been installed and are working well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by Mr. Kertenis. The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2026\*.

\*Mr. Socha made a motion to move the standard June meeting to June 10, 2026 at 6:30 to accommodate Todd Rolland's schedule. Second by Mr. Gruber. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Bourgoin

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING