

**Library Board of Trustees**  
**Somers Public Library - June 10, 2026**

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

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

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

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

Mr. Rolland advised that the DPW will complete landscaping in front of the library, which is currently in planning. Frank's Landscaping will assist with the process. An existing 2015 tree donation in memory of Mark Sullivan will be moved to the front of the building.

The pavilion planning requires RFPs for concrete and design in the courtyard and the front entrance area. Mr. Rolland suggested that Dewright Design, an architectural firm who is working on the expansion of the Senior Center, could help with the design of both the courtyard and the front of the building.

The architectural firm will draw the plans for the courtyard and the front of the building. They will also quote the pricing for both regular concrete and stamped concrete. Mr. Socha made a motion to allow for the design and written plan not to exceed \$4,000. Ms. Marquardt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Socha voiced concern about setting a precedent in paying for common library upkeep and maintenance that are the town's responsibility, with endowment funds. Discussion surrounding the clarity of projects and maintenance ensued. It was suggested that projects and beautification should be funded by the endowment, while maintenance and upkeep should be funded by the town.

Blake Room and Painting – Mr. Rolland is currently working to gather the required bids for these projects. Both will need to go through CIP Committee, as both are over \$5,000.00 in projected cost. A Fall timeline is anticipated for project initiation. Mr. Socha made a motion for paint and floor repair of the Blake Room, not to exceed \$6,000.00 for painting and \$8,000 for the floor repair. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor.

Mr. Rolland will bring this project to the Board of Selectmen for approval, after the town budget is settled. Following this, a special CIP meeting will be held to approve the project.

*Approval of Minutes:* The minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Marquardt moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

*Correspondence:* Ms. Nichting discussed a letter received by M&T Bank showing the closure of a CD that was in the Library's name, yet owned by a Somers resident. This was for a trust that was established in the 1980s, and had remained inactive for many years. The owner of the CD came to the library and said that he had plans

to give the library the money for a special project to be named later. Ms. Nichting told him to come see her when he was ready to do this.

*Financial Business:*

- Ms. Nichting reviewed the year-to-date operating budget balances, and indicated that the library was in a good position to cover its expenses through the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Socha inquired about using any funds that may be left over for the painting and floor project described above, and said that he would inquire on this with the town.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary within it.
- The town budget has not passed thus far in 2026. If the budget goes through, our current FY2026-2027 budget will be reduced by \$10,000 from the materials line, which is primarily books. There will also be no raises for the employees. The Human Services staff who help with the Teen Center will lose one person. This could impact the running of the Teen Center. Ms. Nichting will research any available grants that could support the teen center.
- Mr. Grayson reviewed the advisor fee structure associated with Asset Management Associates and voiced confidence in their costs and services.

*Committee Reports:* none.

*Old Business:* Ms. Nichting reached out to the town's attorney about the difficulties in receiving the S. Prestley Blake donation. They requested documentation and advised that they will contact the Blake attorneys to move things along.

*New Business:* Francine, the former library director, sadly lost her daughter. Ms. Marquart made a motion to approve up to \$250 for a donation to whatever charity the family chooses. Mr. Kertenis seconded the motion. All were in favor.

*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.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by Mr. Grayson. The next meeting will be held September 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted: Lori Bourgoin

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING