

Library Board of Directors
Somers Public Library
January 7, 2019

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Eugene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Bonnie Mazzoli, Andy Phillips, Sharon Renzoni, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner, Kathy Worcester

Also present: Jessica Miller

Shirley Warner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes from the December 3, 2018 meeting were presented and reviewed. Motion made to accept: E. Grayson; seconded: S. Renzoni. (Abstentions: B. Socha) Passed.

First and Second Audience to Citizens: None

Correspondence:

The Board received two thank you notes, one from a staff member, one from a volunteer, in appreciation of the poinsettias given to them for the holidays.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and discussed. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

Invoices were presented for authorization. Motion made to approve the invoices presented for payment, M. Gruber; seconded, B. Mazzoli. Approved.

The year-to-date budget to actual report for December 2018 was distributed and individual items discussed. The report will be filed for audit.

Committees:

Building & Maintenance – J. Miller reported that the library experienced an HVAC issue on December 19 whereby it took a long time for the library to heat up. There was no obvious cause found by the HVAC technician. Library staff will keep an eye on it for future occurrences.

Friends of the Library Liaison – B. Mazzoli reported that the Friends have a book sale coming up in March and their Snacks with Santa program in December was a huge success.

Strategic Planning Committee – E. Grayson reported that the Committee's next meeting is Wednesday, January 9th. They plan to finalize the town survey and decide on distribution plans in order to reach as many residents as possible.

Old Business:

- Bylaw review – The Board reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the Library’s bylaws in detail. Comments and suggested edits were made. S. Warner will incorporate the feedback into the next draft for review at the next meeting.
- Emergency Preparedness – J. Miller provided updates to the Board on the recent town EPAC meeting, during which the quotes for the library security improvements were reviewed. At the EPAC meeting, the First Selectman expressed concern over the cost and asked J. Miller and Todd Rolland of the Somers DPW to revisit the quotes with the service providers to explore any cost-saving options.

New Business:

- S. Warner reminded Board members to be cognizant of all library policies and abide by them, including the one-way traffic pattern in the parking lot.
- J. Miller informed the Board of a fundraising initiative undertaken by the Somers High School Interact Club with the support of the Somers Rotary. The group plans to purchase a telescope and related materials from the Aldrich Astronomical Society for lendable use by the Somers library as part of the Society’s Adopt-a-Library Telescope program. More details will be forthcoming as the program proceeds.
- J. Miller informed the Board about the 2019 Museum “Pass-port” Challenge. Promotional materials were circulated. The program was created by library staff to increase awareness of the many discount museum passes the library has available for use by patrons.
- The Board received a letter from Brooke Morrill, Teen Librarian, regarding his initiative to offer a 30-minute sanctioned snack time after school. Based on the staff’s observations, they believe offering this snack period will help to improve the behavior of the teen patrons and improve the atmosphere. The library will not provide snacks or beverages; however, teen patrons may bring their own snacks and eat in the Blake Room during a supervised 30-minute window. Patrons will be expected to behave appropriately and clean up after themselves in order to participate. The idea was supported by the Board.
- J. Miller informed the Board of a parent request to not allow their child in the library after school. Library staff will make best attempts to turn away the tween patron, but cannot make any guarantees.
- J. Miller and Reference Librarian, C. Becker, analyzed the Hoopla activity since the Board voted to increase the monthly subscription amounts. Noticeable improvements have occurred. The number of Somers patrons rejected by Hoopla has been approximately cut in half.

Director’s Report:

J. Miller reviewed the Director’s report with the Board. The report was accepted as presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. Next meeting will be February 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz