

Library Board of Directors
Somers Public Library
May 3, 2021

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Dave Marti, Bonnie Mazzoli, Andy Phillips,
Sharon Renzoni, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner
Also present: Jessica Miller, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. B. Mazzoli moved to approve the minutes; seconded by D. Marti. Abstention: S. Warner. Approved.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Correspondence: The library received a certification of appreciation for assisting with the 2020 US Census.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by S. Renzoni. It was noted that there remains \$48 of Fagan memorial contributions. In light of her son's (Ted Fagan) recent passing, S. Warner moved to spend the remaining funds on materials related to his interests. S. Renzoni seconded. Motion passed. J. Miller will look for books on local trails and/or mountain biking.

After some discussion regarding the recent investment performance and concerns that a stock market correction is coming, the board agreed to invite John Ruocco to either its next meeting or special meeting of the investment subcommittee to get his opinion on ways to minimize losses in the event a correction comes. S. Renzoni will give John a call. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

Invoices were presented for authorization. L. Gladysz made a motion to approve the invoices presented for payment; seconded, G. Grayson. Approved.

The April budget to actual report was distributed. J. Miller reported on individual expense line items, some of which are overspent. However, underspending in other lines should compensate for them. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Friends of the Library Liaison – B. Mazzoli reported on the next FOL book sale scheduled for 5/14 – 5/17, 5/20, 5/22 – 5/23.

Old Business:

Landscaping/Mowing – Via email communications with Todd Roland, A. Phillips received clarification that the town will mow the library lawn once per week this upcoming season. For the Spring/Fall cleanups and weeding,

B. Socha will solicit additional quotes from local landscapers to compare with the existing quote from New England Landscaping.

New Business:

Collection boxes – Through a review of existing library policies, it was determined that solicitations and collections of any kind are prohibited unless officially sponsored by the library. After much discussion, it was agreed that the policy committee would review the existing policies and propose any changes to the full board in September, after the summer hiatus. In the meantime, to address a pending request by a young patron for a private collection box in the library lobby, J. Miller will ask the Friends if they will collaborate and allow the private collection box during their book sale.

ARPA grant – J. Miller informed the Board about a federal government program designating COVID relief funds for libraries, to be distributed through the CT state library. The Somers library could receive up to \$17,091 upon a successful application. J. Miller will complete the application by the June 30th deadline.

Sunday hours for 2021 book sale – J. Miller advised the board that due to a moratorium on staff spending for the remainder of the fiscal year, it is inadvisable to open the library for the two Sundays during the spring FOL book sale. The Board concurred.

Library discards – J. Miller informed the Board about the various ways the library handles discarded books. She noted that a library in Maine operates strictly on a volunteer basis and obtains its collections through donations only. S. Renzoni moved to allow the Director the discretion to discard books in the normal course and donate them to other libraries and causes in addition to the current methods. M. Gruber seconded. Motion passed.

J. Miller also notified the Board of a cash back opportunity for books recycled through Baker & Taylor. S. Warner made a motion to proceed with the recycling program for all discards not worthy of resale or reuse by others. S. Renzoni seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report:

J. Miller elaborated on her written report, which outlined all the activities, maintenance, virtual events, and number of curbside deliveries during April. She also reported on her attendance at various library-related meetings. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm. Next meeting will be June 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING