

Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
June 7, 2021

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Dave Marti, Andy Phillips, Sharon Renzoni, Shirley Warner  
Absent (excused): Bonnie Mazzoli, Bob Socha  
Also present: Jessica Miller, Library Director  
John Ruocco, Asset Management Associates

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Minutes from the May 3, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Warner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by D. Marti. Approved.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Correspondence:* The library received correspondence from a law firm indicating that the Somers Public Library has been named a beneficiary of a monetary gift established by S. Prestley Blake to be distributed at a future date.

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by S. Renzoni. Deposits included a Neelans fund distribution. The report will be filed for audit.

John Ruocco, investment advisor with Asset Management Associates, reviewed the library's investment holdings and recent performance. He explained the market conditions and effects of the pandemic over the last year. The Board communicated its desire to be conservative with the investments to minimize any losses in the event of a market correction. Mr. Ruocco was then excused from the meeting.

*Financial Business:*

Invoices were presented for authorization. S. Renzoni made a motion to approve the invoices presented for payment; seconded, M. Gruber. Approved. S. Warner made a motion to allow A. Phillips to approve the invoices on behalf of the Board during the summer hiatus. Seconded by M. Gruber. Motion passed.

The May budget to actual report was distributed, along with a projection of the year end results. J. Miller reported on individual expense line items, some of which are overspent while others are underspent. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

*Friends of the Library Liaison* – J. Miller reported that the May book sale was a tremendous success, resulting in their highest sales to date.

*Old Business:*

Landscaping/Mowing – A. Phillips provided a report from B. Socha that his attempts to obtain additional quotes for the landscaping were unsuccessful – with vendors either failing to respond or declining the work. It was recommended that the Board contract with New England Landscaping again but with a reduction in the frequency of weeding. A motion was made to award the business to New England Landscaping by D. Marti; seconded by S. Warner. Motion passed.

Policy review – J. Miller provided the Board with the current library policies relevant to donation boxes on library premises. The Policy Committee will meet over the summer and present any proposed changes to the full Board in September.

ARPA Grant – J. Miller presented her list of proposed purchases for the grant proceeds to be awarded by the CT State Library. Some of her proposal was approved by the state, while some items were rejected. She will continue to pursue suitable items that fall within the strict guidelines of the grant.

*New Business*

Biography donation – J. Miller reported on an inquiry she received asking whether the library would be interested in a donation of a 21-volume biography on Winston Churchill. Discussion ensued. While the library and the Board appreciate all gifts and the spirit with which they are offered, the physical size of the donation and compatibility with the patrons' interests must be considered when adding to the library's collection. It was suggested that this type of material may be better suited for an academic library. S. Warner made a motion to politely decline the donation and express our appreciation for being considered for the gift. Seconded by G. Grayson. Motion passed with 6 votes approving the motion and 1 vote against.

*Director's Report:*

J. Miller elaborated on her written report, which outlined all the activities, maintenance, programs, and other activities during May. 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 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be September 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING