

Library Board of Directors
Somers Public Library
December 6, 2021

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner
Absent: None (one vacancy due to Dave Marti resignation)
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director
Marie Stromwall, Interim Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He welcomed the new Board members and the new Library Director. Each person introduced themselves to the group.

Based on the start of the new Board terms, votes were conducted to appoint the officer positions, as follows:
Chair – S. Warner nominated A. Phillips to continue serving as Chairperson. Seconded by M. Gruber. A. Phillips abstained. Passed.

Treasurer – L. Gladysz nominated G. Grayson as Treasurer. Seconded by B. Socha. G. Grayson abstained. Passed.

Secretary – B. Socha nominated L. Gladysz as Secretary. Seconded by G. Grayson. L. Gladysz abstained. Passed.

Minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting were presented and reviewed. S. Warner noted that the absent members should be marked as “excused” and moved to approve the minutes with the correction; seconded by G. Grayson. Approved, with B. Socha, J. Kertenis, and A. Levesque abstaining.

First & Second Audience to Citizens: None

Correspondence:

A. Phillips reported that D. Marti resigned from the Board via email effective 11/16/21 due to his election as Town Clerk. A. Phillips read aloud the thank you notes received from library staff in appreciation of the holiday cards and gifts. He also noted receipt of the most recent ACLB newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer’s Report was distributed by G. Grayson. He reviewed the different investment asset classes held in the Board endowment funds and noted that a \$7,000 transfer to the checking account occurred in November to cover the new Children’s Room early literacy computers. An itemized list of checks written during the month was not available for this month’s report due to trouble getting the bank activity statements. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

Invoices were presented for authorization. L. Gladysz questioned the accuracy of the Hugh’s Mechanical invoices as they are addressed to the Somers Board of Ed and indicate two different oil tank sizes. J. Nichting will investigate. S. Warner moved to approve the invoices presented with the exception of Hugh’s Mechanical; seconded, G. Grayson. Approved.

The November 2021 budget to actual report was presented by M. Stromwall. She explained several of the expense line items and reported that a deposit from the Hazel Neelans fund was received in November. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

Mileage Reimbursement Rate – M. Stromwall followed up with the Town regarding mileage reimbursement and reported that the Town never reimbursed the former Director for mileage. As the Board pays the mileage reimbursement for staff, S. Warner made a motion to raise the rate to the current IRS rate of \$0.56 per mile and to align it with all future changes in the IRS rate. Seconded by B. Socha. Motion passed.

Awe Computer Quote – M. Stromwall reported that the early literacy computers were ordered and should arrive in the next few weeks. The devices should be plug and play with very little set up needed.

New Business

Board Vacancy – there is one vacant seat on the library board due to D. Marti's resignation. The Board has 60 days from the date of Dave's resignation to fill the position. The candidate must be a registered Republican. Any interested candidates will be invited to attend the next Board meeting to be considered for appointment to the position.

COVID procedures – J. Nichting brought three COVID policies/procedures to the Board's attention for consideration: (a) the mask requirement, (b) the study room occupancy limits, and (c) the current shrink-wrap on the water fountains. Discussion ensued regarding each safety measure, including the unknown impact of the new Omicron variant. The results are as follows:

- (a) J. Kertenis moved to maintain the mask requirement within the library building indefinitely. Seconded by G. Grayson. Motion passed.
- (b) To increase the usability of the study rooms, including for tutoring and study partners, L. Gladysz made a motion to increase the capacity limit to 2 people in a single study room. J. Kertenis seconded. Motion passed.
- (c) G. Grayson moved to remove the plastic barriers and open up the water fountains. Seconded by B. Socha. Motion passed.

Director's Report:

M. Stromwall elaborated on the written report, which outlined all the activities, maintenance, and programs during the month of November, including numbers of patron visits and homebound deliveries. The report was accepted as presented. In addition, in response to a question from B. Socha regarding Sonitrol, M. Stromwall reported that the library was not included in the last school lockdown drill. This appears to be a system failure. J. Nichting will follow up with the Town and School Resource Officer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm. Next meeting will be January 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING