

**Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
April 4, 2022**

**Members present:** Gene Grayson, Jack Kertenis, Kathryn Lerz, Ann Levesque, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner  
**Absent:** Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber  
**Also present:** Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Minutes from the March 7, 2022 meeting were presented and reviewed. B. Socha moved to approve the minutes; seconded by J. Kertenis. Approved.

**First & Second Audience to Citizens:** None

**Correspondence:** From the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, there was a Newsletter and Survey.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by G. Grayson. J. Nichting mentioned in the checking account (page 2) Carrie Steele was paid \$29.75 for repotting a poor looking plant and repainting table for plant to improve the area. Also, \$50 donation made to Somers Dept. of Veterans Affairs. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

**Financial Business:** J. Nichting presented FY 22 Year to Date Financial Report. She spoke of the Heat line item being over budget and Electricity close to budget. She recommends reviewing the heating computer system to better monitor heat consumption and will look into it. May need to look at Building Maintenance line item to draw from to get to end of fiscal year. The report will be filed for audit.

**COMMITTEES**

**Policy Committee:** J. Nichting presented an updated, more concise "Patron Code of Conduct Policy," some of which she brought from her previous library, some from ideas researched in libraries throughout the country as well as suggestions from S. Warner. Motion made to approve by S. Warner, seconded by J. Kertenis. Approved. Last update had been 9/10/18.

**Friends of the Library:** Report given by J. Kertenis that the Spring Book Sale will be April 22, 23 and 24 with \$10 fee to enter on the first day. The Friends agreed to fund a Dementia Program for caregivers to use with people who have dementia for up to \$500. The program consists of creating memory kits at the cost of approximately \$100 each. They will also pay for a program on herbs and gardens.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Library Aware Pricing:** This is a software program which easily creates a variety of ads and other promotional items but is cost prohibitive. However, Joanne is looking into bringing the price down rather than paying for promoting programs in a local paper which is even more expensive. Motion made by B. Socha and seconded by S. Warner to pay \$213 for the remainder of this fiscal year and up to \$1,000 for the next fiscal year for the Library Aware software. Approved.

**ARPA grant status:** Prior to a new idea, a water fountain was thought to be the item to purchase with the ARPA Grant. But it came to be a complicated purchase with size and various models. Then S. Warner, came up with idea of getting an additional air purifier with filters, charging stations, etc. Purifier and related items purchased at just \$7.69 over grant money.

**Sonitrol Security System:** Need to make the panic button of the security system, a true panic button rather putting library into lockdown. To keep Sonitrol's fee down to make this happen, asking Sonitrol to provide a "not to exceed cost" to change the system.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A fine-free library:** Proposal presented by J. Nichting and discussed. Library trend for the last five years is to go fine-free. Will not lose money but will get more people in the library with positive attitudes and outcomes. Enfield and Stafford are fine-free and more libraries are going that way. Due dates don't go away and damaged or lost items are still paid for. Existing fines are wiped out but there are still fines on big ticket items. Motion made to go fine-free by J. Kertenis with a second from K. Lerz. Approved.

**Landscaping:** Because landscaper costs have risen by \$400, looking for more competitive price. Suggestions made to be looked into.

**Library Closure June 4<sup>th</sup> for Bowers Tournament:** Approved.

**Director's Report:** Given by J. Nichting, she elaborated on activities with numbers attending, maintenance done during the month of March, as well as outside meetings attended by staff, and in-person visits of 4,260 which almost doubled from last month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. Next meeting is May 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Levesque, standing in for Lisa Gladysz, Secretary in her absence

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING