

Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
May 2, 2022

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

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes from the April 4, 2022 meeting were presented and reviewed. G. Grayson moved to approve the minutes; seconded by J. Kertenis. Abstentions: L. Gladysz, M. Gruber. Approved.

*First & Second Audience to Citizens:* None

*Correspondence:* None

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by G. Grayson. He reported that the investment assets have dropped since the beginning of the year due to unrealized losses of about \$70K or 8.8%. He also reviewed the checking account activity, including checks that were written and a transfer in from the savings account as the checking balance was dwindling. However, he noted that the savings account balance must stay above \$500 to avoid bank fees. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:*

The April 2022 budget to actual report was presented by J. Nichting. She reviewed the expense line items and income summary for the month. She noted that the electricity and heat line items have been exhausted; however, savings in other line items should keep total expenses in line with the budget. J. Nichting also highlighted various income items, including receipt of the Neelan's distribution, along with a pending deposit for funds received from the state for out-of-town circulation (materials provided to non-residents). The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

Friends of the Library – J. Kertenis and J. Nichting reported that the latest FOL book sale was their best ever, with proceeds of about \$5,700. The sale was well organized and well attended.

Building Committee – B. Socha reported that the sprinkler system accelerator has not yet been turned on. Hartford Sprinkler was supposed to come in and take care of it in the last couple weeks. He will follow up.

*Old Business:*

Alarm System – J. Nichting informed the Board that after further investigation, it was determined that the panic buttons at the front desk and the lockdown buttons all do the same thing. None of the buttons actually notify first responders directly in case of emergency. She obtained an estimate to fix the panic buttons at an estimated cost of \$1,175. As the library originally intended to have the panic buttons notify emergency personnel, B. Socha will discuss with the DPW prior to the library moving forward with the paid service.

*New Business:*

Courtyard – J. Nichting proposed the idea of removing the bark mulch from the courtyard and planting grass to allow for more outdoor programs, like children’s story time. It was discussed that the area gets incredibly hot as it is south facing in full sun. It was agreed that library staff would assess the conditions this summer to better evaluate the viability of using it as lawn space.

Bylaws Revision – G. Grayson asked the Board to consider a change to the monthly meeting dates/days. When meetings fall very close to the start of the month, many of the banking reports are not available, making the treasurer’s report preparation difficult. This would require a change to the Board’s bylaws. The general consensus was that it seems possible. More formulated plans will be developed and discussed when the Board reconvenes in September.

Memorial Book – S. Warner made a motion for the Board to purchase a gardening or houseplant book, up to a value of \$50, in memory of Annie Herskowitz, a long-time supporter of the library. B. Socha seconded. Motion passed.

*Director’s Report:*

J. Nichting briefly elaborated on her written report, which outlined all the activities and maintenance during the month of April. In addition, she announced the new hires and discussed staffing changes to ensure adequate coverage where needed and best utilize the skill sets of the staff. The report was accepted as presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm. Next meeting will be June 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING