

Library Board of Directors
Somers Public Library
January 17, 2023

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Jack Kertenis, Kathryn Lerz, Ann Levesque, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner

Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:28pm.

First Audience to Citizens: A. Phillips introduced Andrew Rockett, community member and trustee of the John C. Rockett Trust Fund. Andy Rockett introduced himself and provided the history of when the fund was established and why. While not an official Trust, the fund was established by Andy's family after his father's unexpected passing. As long-time patrons of the library, they wanted to honor their father's memory and support the library. The fund was established with conditions, as designated in a letter to the library back when the fund was established. These include, but are not limited to:

1. It is designated for books only, not library maintenance
2. 51% of the interest earned on the fund is to be reinvested
3. The family is to receive a list of all books purchased with the funds on a periodic basis

Discussion ensued about the management of the fund, the CD investment, and lack of accounting or transactions in recent years. The last one occurred in 2003. Mr. Rockett indicated that he doesn't know how much the original donation was, but indicated he would provide the Board with an approximate accounting of the accumulated interest along with his family's proposed plan for the fund going forward.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting were presented and reviewed. B. Socha moved to approve the minutes; seconded by J. Kertenis. Abstentions: K. Lerz. Approved.

Correspondence: The Board received a thank you note from the library staff in appreciation of the Christmas gifts.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by G. Grayson. He gave a summary of the endowment investment composition, financial performance for 2022, and highlighted the large expenditures for the year. The largest was the landscaping at \$5,678. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY23 year to date financial report was presented by J. Nichting. She reviewed the various line items, noting that the operating expenses in total (excluding salaries) were fairly in alignment with the percentage of the year that has passed thus far. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Building Committee - B. Socha noted that the panic device is still not working properly and requires Sonitrol to fix. Sonitrol will be on site on January 18th to fix a camera feed issue. B. Socha will stop by the library during their visit to

address the issues. He also indicated that one of the exterior doors is not latching properly and will take a look during his visit.

J. Nichting reported that the men's room off the lobby had been vandalized with hateful graffiti and a racial slur. The matter was reported to the resident state trooper's office. As there have been several incidents involving vandalism in the bathrooms, discussion ensued on how to prevent it. J. Nichting also informed the Board that she participated in an emergency management re-unification plan coordinated by the school system in the event of an evacuation or other emergency.

Friends of the Library – J. Kertenis reported on the Friends of the Library's discussions at their last meeting, including the success of the Santa celebrations, planning for the house tour fundraiser in September, and the Spring book sale, among other things.

Budget Committee – The Committee presented the proposed FY 23-24 budget to the Board, noting the rationale for the various line items. The unpredictability of the utility expenses was discussed. S. Warner moved to approve the budget as presented with the stipulation that the Library Director may increase the electricity expense pending further consultation with the Somers DPW. Seconded by G. Grayson. Motion passed.

Old Business:

MBA Dismissal Concerns – A. Phillips had a discussion with MBA Principal, Margot Martello, regarding the Board's safety concerns surrounding the MBA dismissal and unsafe conditions in the library parking lot. He suggested to her that the school not cross children to the library until after the car line pick-ups had finished. Ms. Martello was not receptive to this, but said that she would speak to the superintendent regarding this matter and get back to Andy Phillips.

New Business:

Sunday Openings – J. Nichting asked the Board to consider opening the library on Sundays during the Friends of the Library book sales. She indicated that staffing wouldn't be an issue. B. Socha made a motion to open the library on Sundays twice per year during the Friends' book sales. Seconded by M. Gruber. Motion passed.

Director's Report:

J. Nichting presented her Director's Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, and circulation and other statistics. She noted that the people counter may not be working properly and she is investigating. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. Next meeting will be February 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING