

Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
February 21, 2023

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

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

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting were presented and reviewed. G. Grayson moved to approve the minutes; seconded by J. Kertenis. Approved.

*Correspondence:* The library received a donation from the Somers Republican Town Committee and others in memory of George Warner.

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by G. Grayson. He indicated that the endowment balance remains relatively flat and that a \$5,000 withdrawal was made last month to pay bills. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:*

The FY23 year to date financial report was presented by J. Nichting. She noted that the supplies expense is a little high, but not much has changed since last month. Utilities expenses remain above budget based on the timing in the year. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

**Building Committee** - B. Socha noted that Sonitrol came out to address the security camera issues; however, he was unavailable at the time of their visit. They reviewed the front door crash bar problem and indicated that it was a locksmith issue. A locksmith changed out the magnet in the locking mechanism and ultimately fixed the issue at a cost of \$854.25. Sonitrol also provided a proposal to reconfigure the panic button. There is still a disconnect between the way Sonitrol says the button works and how it actually works when tested. B. Socha will contact Sonitrol to ask them to come out to the library and prove its functionality.

It was reported that several areas in the building were cold. B. Socha contacted the HVAC provider who changed some of the set points; however, there were no alarms and everything appears to be working properly.

**Budget Committee** – Based on discussions with the DPW and Selectmen, there was general consensus that the building maintenance should be managed by the DPW just like all of the other town buildings. The budget was revised to reflect the transfer of the budgeted maintenance expenses to the DPW. A. Phillips reported on the Board of Selectmen meeting

during which the library budget was presented. The budget was well received and the selectmen thought it was reasonable.

*Old Business:*

**MBA Dismissal Concerns** – A. Phillips reported on his discussion with the interim superintendent regarding the board’s concerns about student safety. It was expressed that neither the superintendent, MBA administration, nor the school resource officer are concerned. The MBA principal did send an email stating that the library requests that parents not pick up their students in the library parking lot, but no further action was taken. While the Board is still concerned, it will not pursue the matter further due to lack of support from the school, the resource officer, or the resident trooper’s office.

*New Business:*

**Strategic Plan Action Plan** – The strategic plan was circulated to Board members with J. Nichting looking for ideas for specific actions to execute on the plan. G. Grayson proposed that a small subset of Board members form a committee to generate ideas. A. Phillips, G. Grayson, and A. Levesque volunteered to be on the committee. J. Nichting will participate and invite a library staff member to round out the committee.

**People Counter Replacement** – J. Nichting informed the Board that the people counter may not be working properly. The people counter is important for providing statistics to the State and making decisions based on patronage data. She provided quotes for several different replacement options ranging from \$500 to \$2,300. The Board decided to table the discussion until next month after more investigation and testing occurs on the existing device.

L. Gladysz made a motion to enter executive session at 8:04pm. B. Socha seconded. Passed.

G. Grayson moved to end executive session at 8:18pm. K. Lerz seconded. Passed.

M. Gruber moved to donate \$100 to the Somers Congregational Church in memory of George Warner. K. Lerz seconded. 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. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm. Next meeting will be March 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING