

Library Board of Directors  
Somers Public Library  
April 18, 2023

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 6:29 PM.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the March 21, 2023 meeting were presented and reviewed. G. Grayson moved to approve the minutes; seconded by A. Levesque. Abstention: L. Gladysz. Approved.

*Correspondence:* The Board received the following correspondence:

- A thank you note from the Somers Congregational Church for its donation in memory of George Warner.
- Letter from Bank of America regarding the Neelans Trust indicating the next distribution amount of \$3,419.23 will include a mandatory 5% distribution in addition to the typical income.
- Renewal notice for the ACLB membership. S. Warner moved to renew the ACLB membership at a cost of \$100 for dues. Seconded by J. Kertenis. Motion passed.

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by G. Grayson. He described the investment diversification of the endowment funds and noted receipt of the latest quarterly newsletter from John Ruocco. Gene will invite John to our next Board meeting in May. In addition, he noted that Andy Rockett is drawing up a formal trust document for the John Rockett & Family Fund. 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 heat line item exceeds the budgeted amount as expected, due to the high cost of oil, but discussed other areas where the library is under budget. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

**Building Committee** – No issues to report.

**Friends of the Library** – Brief discussion about potential homes for the home tour fundraiser. A. Levesque provided an update on possible properties. The book sale is taking place this coming weekend.

**Strategic Planning** – The committee met to discuss priorities, including how to get the word out with the theme "Heart of the Community."

*Old Business:*

**Sonitrol** – J. Nichting reported that the lockdown and panic buttons have been fixed and are finally working as originally intended.

**Landscaping/DPW** – J. Nichting informed the Board that the DPW is assuming responsibility for the library landscaping. They will try to do much of the work themselves and enlist contractors when needed; however, the costs will be covered by the DPW budget.

**Little Free Library** – J. Nichting reported that a Junior at Somers High School had proposed a Little Free Library (LFL) installation at the driveway entrance to the library. The DPW did not approve the location noting it was an unsafe location for pedestrians. The LFL will be located at Connor’s Place on Field Road. Discussion ensued about the library parking lot safety during MBA dismissal and possible solutions.

*New Business:*

**Bowers Tournament** – L. Gladysz moved to close the library on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, due to the Bowers Lacrosse Tournament. Seconded by M. Gruber. Passed.

*Director’s Report:*

J. Nichting presented her Director’s Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation and other statistics. Of particular note, she added library meeting space usage by community groups. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM. Next meeting will be May 16, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING