

Library Board of Trustees  
Somers Public Library  
September 19, 2023

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Jack Kertenis, Kathryn Lerz, Ann Levesque, Andy Phillips  
Absent (excused): Bob Socha  
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director  
David Marti, Town Clerk  
Marybeth Marquardt, Board member candidate

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. He welcomed both David Marti and Marybeth Marquardt to the meeting. Ms. Marquardt is a candidate to fill the open position on the Board vacated by Shirley Warner. Each Board member introduced themselves and described their roles and tenure on the Board. Ms. Marquardt introduced herself and discussed her many years of community service in various capacities. Ms. Lerz made a motion for Ms. Marquardt to fill the open position formerly held by Shirley Warner until the end of Ms. Warner's original term. Seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Motion passed. David Marti, in his capacity as Town Clerk of Somers, swore in Ms. Marquardt and left the meeting at 6:50 PM.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Kertenis moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Lerz. Abstentions: Mr. Grayson, Mr. Gruber. Approved.

*Correspondence:* The Board received a resignation letter from Shirley Warner, who retired from the board after 35 years of service.

*Treasurer's Report:*

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Mr. Grayson. He described the Library's endowment fund and bank accounts, noting the recent closure of the M&T account. The Board's banking relationship is now solely with Webster Bank. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

*Financial Business:*

The FY24 year to date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. She noted that the Town recently acquired new software which will make the reporting easier going forward. She also noted that the building and maintenance items were removed from the report as they are now part of the DPW's budget. Individual line item expenses were discussed, along with recent personnel changes made by Ms. Nichting resulting in annual savings. The report will be filed for audit.

*Committee Reports:*

Friends of the Library – Ms. Nichting reported on the most recent FOL meeting, during which it was observed that the FOL spent more than it received during the last fiscal year, which may curb some of the program spending. She also reported on their Somers Home Tour fundraiser coming up this weekend. One hundred fifty tickets have been sold so far. All participants will need to stop by the library Saturday morning to obtain their entrance ticket for the tour. Ms.

Nighting requested the library open 30 minutes earlier to facilitate the check-in process. Ms. Gladysz made a motion to open the library at 9:30 AM. Seconded by Mr. Grayson. Motion passed. It was also noted that the Santa Celebration is planned for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Policy Committee – it was noted that with Shirley Warner’s resignation, there is an opening on the Policy Committee. Ms. Gladysz volunteered to be added to the committee.

Ms. Gladysz left the meeting at 7:22 PM at which time Mr. Phillips assumed secretarial duties.

*Old Business:*

MBA Student Pick-ups - Ms. Nighting has noticed a decline in parents parking in the lot although some still are. Craig Jones spoke with some parents early on and it was mentioned at middle school orientation. If we notice an increase, perhaps Officer Jones will speak to individual parents.

*New Business:*

Lettering for Warner Reading Room – Ms. Nighting has quotes for two different size letters. We decided to table this until our next meeting so Board members can look at the other signage and Mr. Socha can be involved.

New Vacuum – Mr. Grayson made a motion to purchase a new vacuum cleaner for occasional use at a cost of approximately \$110. Mr. Gruber seconded. Unanimously passed.

FOL Fall Book Sale – Ms. Lerz moved to open the library on Sunday, October 22 from 10 – 2 the day of the Friends’ Fall Book Sale. Ms. Marquardt seconded. Motion passed.

*Director’s Report:*

Ms. Nighting presented her Director’s Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation, meeting space usage, and other statistics. Of special note was the success of the teen video gaming event sponsored by Somers Comes together which received lots of positive feedback from parents. She also stated that she would like to sign up for more “Cost per Circulation” titles which could be more cost effective. The report was accepted as presented.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Next meeting will be October 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Gladysz  
Andy Phillips

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING