

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
October 17, 2023

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

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

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 19, 2023 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Grayson moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Mr. Grayson. He noted that the bank account consolidation to one account at Webster Bank has made things easier to manage. He also summarized the investment portfolio and reported on its recent performance. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY24 year to date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. Individual line item expenses were discussed along with the possibility of combining line items for next year's budget. Ms. Nichting noted that the FY25 budget is due to the town by the end of November. With the resignation of Shirley Warner, there is a vacancy on the Budget Committee. Mr. Gruber volunteered to fill the spot and participate in the FY25 budget review. The report will be filed for audit.

(Ms. Marquardt stepped out of the meeting at 7pm.)

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee – Ms. Nichting presented to the full Board the new Collection Development Policy which was reviewed and approved by the Policy Committee. She noted the evolution of the current draft and proceeded to walk through the policy contents. Mr. Gruber moved to approve the amended Collection Development Policy as presented. Seconded by Ms. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum present.

Old Business:

Warner Reading Room Signage – Concerns were raised regarding the size and placement of the lettering over the entrance to the Warner Reading Room. Discussion ensued, along with physical observation, of all the lettering in the

library including size, font, and color. It was decided that Ms. Nichting will request mock-ups from the sign company before committing to a final decision.

New Business:

Weeding of Nonfiction Collection – Ms. Nichting noted that the non-fiction collection contains a substantial amount of books that are outdated, irrelevant, and/or no longer meet the collection development criteria laid out in the policy. Discarded books will be sent to a book recycler. Once completed, the section may look noticeably smaller.

(Ms. Marquardt returned to the meeting at 7:30.)

Teen Room – The Town Social Services department received a grant for \$5,000 from the Harford Foundation for Public Giving for creation of a Teen Center; however, due to space constraints for an actual center, the Library and Social Services decided to collaborate and propose enhancements to the Teen Room to add activities and creative spaces. Approval by the Foundation will be needed to redirect the funds for such a purpose.

Election of New Treasurer – With Mr. Grayson’s term on the Board ending with the upcoming election, the Board will need a new Treasurer. Mr. Phillips nominated Ms. Marquardt for the position which would be effective immediately. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Grayson requested that the Board revisit the Strategic Plan soon at a future meeting so as not to lose sight of the library’s longer-term goals.

Ms. Nichting will be on vacation on the third Tuesday of November. Mr. Gruber moved to change the next Board meeting to November 14th rather than November 21st. Seconded by Ms. Lerz. Mr. Grayson abstained. Motion passed.

Director’s Report:

Ms. Nichting presented her Director’s Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation, meeting space usage, and other statistics. She also noted an incident in the Teen Room involving middle school and high school students. The two middle school students have been banned from the library for 30 days. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM. Next meeting will be November 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING