

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
September 24, 2024

Members present: Catherine Embriano, Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Marybeth Marquardt, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director
Gene Grayson, Advisor to Investment Committee

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Investment Committee:

The Investment Committee presented first (out of order) with Gene Grayson invited as a special guest. Based on his prior experience as Treasurer, he helped the Investment Committee propose a re-write of the Endowment Rules to clarify some of the confusing provisions. The committee presented their proposed draft. Much discussion ensued, with the Board seeking some additional modifications. Ms. Nichting will revise the draft and present a new version for consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Grayson exited the meeting.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Kertenis moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kelleher. Abstentions: Mr. Gruber, Mr. Socha. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: A notice of upcoming events was received from the Association of Connecticut Library Boards.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of notable transactions and the increase in market value of the endowment funds. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY25 year to date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. Expenses are in line with where they should be at this time of year. Ms. Nichting noted the high spending in automated services due to timing of the expenses which is consistent every year. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Friends of the Library – Ms. Nichting attended FOL meetings on 7/16 and 9/9 during which museum passes were renewed, programs approved, and three committees were established – Book Sale, Membership, and Finance. The next meeting will be on 11/4/24.

Old Business:

Library Landscaping – Over the summer, Ms. Nichting reviewed the landscaping concerns with the DPW. They increased the mowing frequency and did a weeding which improved the appearance. The Board will see how next season goes before pursuing any action.

FOL 50th Anniversary - Ms. Nichting noted that the Friends of the Library will be celebrating their 50th anniversary soon. The Board discussed the possibility of a celebratory reception. Mr. Kertenis will find out when exactly the anniversary is and report back next month.

New Business:

Notary Services – Ms. Nichting noted that Francie Clark will no longer be providing notary services. Mr. Socha moved to spend the amount necessary to get the training and related stamps for another full-time library staff member to become a notary. Seconded by Ms. Embriano. Unanimously approved.

Tonies – Ms. Nichting requested the Board purchase Tonies (story-telling devices) and related character figures for pre-school age children. Mr. Socha moved to spend up to \$800 for the requested Tonies, characters, and supplies. Seconded by Ms. Marquardt. Unanimously approved.

Library of Things – Ms. Nichting proposed the creation of a “Library of Things” for lending non-traditional items. Mr. Kelleher moved to spend up to \$1,000 to start building the collections of “things.” Seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Unanimously approved.

Courtyard – The Board members viewed the outdoor library courtyard. Mr. Socha and Ms. Nichting presented an idea to enhance and improve the courtyard – to create a usable, inviting space for additional library programs and enjoyment. Photos of sample gazebos and pavilions were circulated along with a budgetary proposal. The Board agreed to review the materials and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Sunday FOL Book Sale – Ms. Gladysz move to open the library on the Sunday of the next Friends’ book sale (October 20th) provided Ms. Nichting can staff it. Seconded by Ms. Embriano. Unanimously approved.

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 updates on library happenings. She also provided a copy of the Library’s annual report statistics which provides a year over year comparison of library usage, programs, circulation, etc. The report reflects impressive increases in almost all line items. She and the staff were commended on their efforts. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM. The next meeting will be October 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING