

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
October 21, 2025

Members present: Lori Bourgoïn, Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Marybeth Marquardt, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director
Gene Grayson, Community Member

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Kertenis moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Levesque. Abstentions: Mr. Gruber, Ms. Marquardt, Mr. Socha. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: The Board received a promotional notice from the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) for an instructional Zoom presentation on Library Board basics. The link to register will be emailed to Board members in the event they would like to attend. The Board also received an email from the Town inquiring about the Board's knowledge of the Rockett Fund which recently came to the Town's attention. Discussion ensued and it was noted that the Board is well aware of the Rockett Fund.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Ms. Nichting made note of the appreciation in the endowment fund investments, along with discussion of several line items and how the credit card payments work. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY26 year-to-date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting. There was nothing notable to report. The report will be filed for audit.

In response to a question from Ms. Bourgoïn, Ms. Nichting explained how the library salaries are determined. In addition, the Town recently conducted salary surveys for town employees in seven similar towns in our area, noting that many town employees may see pay increases beginning in January. She also indicated that the 2026-27 budget preparation is underway. She will send a draft of the budget to the Board before the next meeting. It is due to the Town in early December.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee – Mr. Phillips and Ms. Nichting presented a revised Patron Code of Conduct. Ms. Nichting highlighted the changes from the previous policy. Ms. Marquardt moved to approve the revised policy. Mr. Gruber seconded the motion. The policy was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Pavilion Update – No change since the June meeting. The Board is discouraged by the Town’s mandated purchasing procedures for a structure that will be built with donated private funds. Discussion ensued, including other options or abandoning the project altogether. It was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting when three newly-elected members will join the Board.

Landscaping – Ms. Nichting presented the landscaping quote she received from New England Landscape Services. Board members were not comfortable paying for such a significant amount of recurring maintenance that should be conducted by the Town. The Board requested Ms. Nichting contact two or three landscape architects/firms to explore investing in alternatives such as hardscaping which would require much less on-going maintenance.

Camera Quotes – Ms. Nichting presented the Sonitrol quote for additional security cameras, the majority of which would be on the exterior of the library. Due to the significant cost of the cameras plus additional monitoring fees for each, the Board requested that Ms. Nichting try to negotiate better pricing before funding the project.

New Business:

Ms. Marquardt reported that the Somers Republican Town Committee will donate four books authored by Charlie Kirk. Two have already been delivered. Two more will be coming soon.

Mr. Socha requested that Scholarships be added as an agenda item to the November meeting.

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 events. Of particular note, Baker and Taylor, the library’s primary book vendor, has gone out of business. In the short term, the library will order books via a library plan on Amazon. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will be on November 18, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING