

Library Board of Trustees  
Somers Public Library  
December 16, 2025

Members Present: Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Marybeth Marquardt, Bob Socha,  
Gene Grayson, Jason Snukis, Lori Bourgoin  
Absent: Ann Levesque  
Also Present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director  
John Ruocco, Asset Management Associates

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Mr. Grayson.

*First Audience to Citizens:* None

*Investment Review by Advisor:* Mr. Ruocco reviewed the results of the Charles Schwab investments. Year-to-date return is eleven percent (11%) while the market result is approximately fourteen percent (14%). Mr. Ruocco advised that our conservative approach to investing, along with forty percent of investment outside of the market in bonds and cash (money market), the eleven percent return is appropriate. Ms. Marquardt mentioned that the investment committee will review the investment funds selected to ensure the best return for the Endowment Funds. Mr. Ruocco will return in approximately six months to again update the board.

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from the November 18, 2025, meeting was presented and reviewed. Mr. Socha moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. All in favor. Minutes approved.

*Correspondence:* Ms. Nichting reviewed a personalized thank-you card from a remote-control model airplane group who uses the facility. This group also provided a donation of \$150.00 to the library.

*Treasurer's Report:* Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of the report. She further stated that the receipts for expenses are reviewed by the town and audited annually.

*Financial Business:* The FY26 year-to-date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting, who noted that our YTD results were typical for this time of year. She also presented a spreadsheet with all Board payments for the FY 25 and FY26 thus far along with revenues per Mr. Socha's request. The information was reviewed by the board without further discussion.

*Committee Reports:* Budget - Ms. Nichting advised that the town Selectman will hold a meeting on February 19, 2026, to review the library budget for the year. All board members were welcomed to attend.

*Old Business:*

Pavilion update – Mr. Socha previously suggested that the board start anew in deciding on the concept for the recommended pavilion behind the library. Specifically, ensure that the initial goals of the project are clearly understood when deciding on next steps. Mr. Socha and Ms. Nichting plan to gather building options in the next few months for presentation to the board. There was discussion surrounding the dedication of the pavilion without any final decision.

Landscaping – Ms. Nichting met with two landscape architects and reviewed their proposals to create a new design that will require less maintenance for the library property. Ms. Nichting will schedule a follow-up meeting with the board and the favored vendor, Barbara A. Yaeger LLC, in the next few months. Mr. Gruber requested photographs of Ms. Yaeger’s work during her presentation to the board. A grant for the Teen Center’s outside seating concept will be considered in coordination with any architectural planning. Mr. Socha moved to approve the invitation and potential expense for Ms. Yaeger’s time with a maximum expenditure of \$300.00 for the meeting; seconded by Ms. Marquardt. All in favor.

Camera Installation/Security System – Ms. Nichting reviewed the Sonitrol proposal for three new cameras with the town Selectman, following the approval of the board last month. The proposal was considered by the town as cost prohibitive. The town suggested using a vendor already used for other town properties. They also suggested replacing Sonitrol’s security system with one by Total Protection, who currently handle all other town buildings. The town attorney will review the current Sonitrol contract. Todd Rolland of the DPW will oversee this project and keep Ms. Nichting advised.

Scholarships - The concept of offering scholarships was again presented by Mr. Socha and discussed. No final determination was made, and the topic will be continued for further review.

*New Business:*

2026 Closed Dates – Ms. Nichting presented a list of proposed dates that the library could be closed primarily for holidays. This list is similar to the one already approved by the Selectmen, however some dates are different due to library hours not being the same as other town offices. Mr. Kertenis made a motion to approve the dates as suggested. Seconded by Mr. Socha. All in favor.

*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.

*Second Audience to Citizens:* None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Bourgoin

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING