

**Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
March 17, 2026**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mr. Grayson.

Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 17, 2025, meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Socha moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Ms. Levesque. Vote: All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: Later in the meeting, Ms. Nichting reviewed a letter from S. Prestley Blake's attorney regarding his trust.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Nichting reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report and noted that investments declined due to current market performance. Ms. Nichting advised of a recent donation from Ms. Shirley Warner in the amount of \$300. The library purchased 25 Tonies and one Tonie Box for the Children's Department with these donated funds.

Financial Business: Ms. Nichting presented the FY26 year-to-date financial report. Spending is at 64% of the budget at this point in the fiscal year. The Fiscal Year 2027 Selectman budget review meeting was attended by several Board members in February, where the proposal was presented by Ms. Nichting. A request was made by the Selectmen for a transaction history of programming spending due to the request for more funding. This information was sent.

Committees:

Investment Committee - Met last month. They plan to meet each quarter to ensure endowment rules are met. The committee was satisfied with their current review. Any concerns would be shared with the financial planner.

Friends of the Library – They will renew the Mark Twain House museum pass. The annual book sale will take place next month. An October book sale will also occur. Last year the Board paid for the annual dinner for the Friends, with a maximum budget of \$600. Ms. Marquardt made a motion to approve up to \$600 for this year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Socha. Vote: All in favor.

Old Business:

Camera / Security update. No updates from Todd Rolland, DPW Director. Still awaiting information and will update the board next month.

New Business:

Fund new office chairs - Two office chairs that were originally purchased in 2009 have broken. Ms. Nichting purchased two replacement chairs from Amazon totaling \$155.78. It was decided that she would pay for these through the Supplies line item of the operating budget.

Open Library on April 12th - The Friends of the Somers Library Spring Book Sale will be held on April 10, 11, and 12. Ms. Levesque made motion to open the library on Sunday, April 12th, which was seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Vote: All in favor.

Close Library on May 30th due to the Bowers' Tournament - Mr. Kertenis made a motion to approve the closing; Ms. Levesque seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor.

S. Prestley Blake trust – Bequest made in 1988 trust to donate \$500,000 to the library upon his wife's death. Mrs. Blake passed away approximately one year ago, and the cash bequest is now ready to be paid to the library. Mr. Socha made a motion to put the funds into the Schwab account of the endowment until a future decision is made on how the funds will be used. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. Vote: all in favor. Ms. Nichting will review the proper steps with town leaders and advise the board on next steps.

Director's Report: Ms. Nichting presented her Director's Report, which included updates on library operations, program attendance, circulation statistics, meeting space usage, and upcoming events. She discussed how the library is starting to create reels on Facebook and Instagram to support the mission of the library. Story times are doing very well – there is a wait list. Circulation was down in February primarily due to the weather. There were several snow days. The Library will participate in a state-wide library passport program. The program begins on April 1, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by Mr. Grayson. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Bourgoin

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING