

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library – July 13, 2026

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

Also Present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Special meeting due to budget cuts to the library. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Grayson.

Correspondence

Ms. Nichting advised the board of a recent thank-you note received for a donation made due to the death of the daughter of a former employee.

Old Business – Landscaping

Ms. Nichting mentioned that a longtime patron/former trustee recently voiced concern about the current state of the landscaping surrounding the library. The board discussed the need for upkeep of the grounds that have become overgrown and unsightly. Following the discussion, Mr. Grayson made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for cleanup of the grounds while awaiting the landscaping project currently in planning. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bourgoin. The majority of the board was in favor. Motion opposed by Mr. Socha. Motion passed.

New Business – Impact of Budget Cuts

Ms. Nichting discussed the budget cuts proposed for the referendum vote scheduled for July 14th that relate to the library. The Library is to lose a full-time employee and a part-time employee. Library materials spending has already been set to be reduced by \$10,000 during previous referendum votes. Ms. Nichting suggested to best accommodate the cuts, the Library should close on Saturdays and Thursday evenings. She explained her reasoning for this suggestion. Currently two employees work on Saturdays and every evening from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Employees each work one evening per week, and every fourth Saturday. With less staff, there are less people to put on a Saturday and evening rotation which would require some staff to work more than one evening a week, and more frequent Saturdays. Keeping the same number of operating hours with less staff would also be a burden on the remaining staff who would be doing more work with less people. Ms. Nichting wants to make sure that morale doesn't suffer as a result of the budget cuts because she is afraid that she could lose good employees as a result. She also researched library usage for specific days of the weeks and determined that Saturdays are not any busier than any other days. Also, being closed on Saturdays instead of a week day wouldn't affect students that come to the library after school or the Teen Center program.

Ms. Levesque made a motion to close the library on Saturdays, and Thursday evenings at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

The library will eliminate one full time and one part time staff member effective following the approval of the town's budget. Resulting duties and responsibilities will be distributed to remaining staff members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. by Mr. Grayson. The next regular meeting will be held September 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted: Lori Bourgoïn

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING