

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library – Special Meeting - September 29, 2026

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

Also Present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director
Todd Rolland, Director, Dept. of Public Works
Stephen Dewey, Architect

Absent: John Keller, Mike Gruber

Meeting initiated by Mr. Grayson at 6:30 p.m.

Audience to Citizens/Guests –

Mr. Dewey presented renderings for a planned pavilion in the back courtyard of the library, along with refinement of the front entrance. Mr. Rolland advised that an RFP will be required for this project. The Board agreed to have a special meeting in the near future to discuss his ideas and their own input. This input will then be sent to Mr. Dewey to work on an updated proposal.

The Blake Room –Mr. Rolland reviewed the painting and floor repair projects. He will review it with the CIP at their next meeting on October 8th for their approval. If approved, Mr. Rolland will put the project out to bid. Scheduling the work will be done after that.

Note: The Architect charged a fee of \$4,800.00 for the project design. Only \$4,000.00 was previously approved by the board as an estimate. Mr. Grayson proposed approval of the full \$4,800, seconded by Mr. Socha. All were in favor. The revised cost was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes reviewed include those for a special meeting for July and the meeting for June. A motion for approval was offered by Mr. Kertenis, which was seconded by Ms. Marquardt. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Correspondence

None.

Financial Business

Ms. Nichting reviewed the reports for FY 2026, advising that \$12k was left over and was returned to the town, and for FY 2027, where she reminded the Board that \$10k was reduced by the town during the budget process for library materials and one full-time staff position was eliminated which affected the salary line.

Committees

Friends of the Library-Mr. Kertenis discussed planning for the upcoming book sale. Ms. Nichting mentioned that following an OSHA inspection, the Friends of the Library must determine a new storage area other than behind the stage for books.

New Business –

The board discussed strategies to recognize the generous donors to the library. Several options were considered and tabled for a future meeting.

The center island in front of the building has been cleared and is growing grass. The board agreed to maintain as is versus adding trees, as previously considered.

Director's Report: Ms. Nichting presented her Director's Report, which included updates on new hours, program attendance, circulation statistics, and receipt of a large donation by S. Prestley Blake's estate.

Ms. Nichting will be the recipient of the town's Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employee Award in October. A very nice honor and recognition of her and her work!

Mr. Grayson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2026

Respectfully submitted: Lori Bourgoïn

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING