Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library – November 17, 2026 - Board Meeting

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

Mr. Kertenis opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Audience to Citizens/Guests
Mr. Todd Rolland, DPW Director, discussed the update to architectural plans for the library front entrance hardscape and courtyard pavilion. Mr. Socha made a motion to accept the revised front entrance plans. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marquardt. All were in favor.

Mr. Socha made a motion to approve the revised courtyard plans. Mr. Gruber seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Rolland will start the process by preparing a Request for Proposals shortly. He thinks work will begin in late Spring 2027.

John Ruocco, Financial Advisor for the endowment, reviewed the Schwab account and other investment information. Mr. Socha made a motion to move $200k in a cash account from the Blake donation to more aggressive equity funds as a long-term strategy toward financial growth. Ms. Bourgoin seconded the motion. Ms. Levesque opposed the motion. Motion was approved. The investment committee will discuss the revised strategy for planning forward.

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Socha made a motion to approve the October 20, 2026, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marquardt. All were in favor.

Correspondence
None.

Financial Business
Discussion surrounding the Year-to-date Operating Budget and Treasurer's Report. Ms. Nichting reviewed the information and advised that all points are as expected based on prior years.

Committees
Policy Committee: The Patron Code of Conduct policy revisions concerning children under twelve years of age needing to be supervised while in the library were reviewed by Ms. Nichting. The draft was also previously reviewed by the Policy Committee and approved. Mr. Socha made a motion to approve the revised policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marquardt. All were in favor.

Friends of the Library: Ms. Nichting advised that the Friends of the Library committee did well at their October book sale receiving the largest Fall revenue to date. The committee is working to determine storage of books due to the limitations on space. They will hold their Santa Celebration event on the first Saturday of December 2026.

Old Business

Two Blake Trust press release drafts were discussed. A shorter version was approved by motion by Mr. Gruber, which was seconded by Ms. Levesque. Mr. Socha abstained from vote. The motion was approved.

Mr. Socha made a motion to display a plaque in the library for donors such as Mr. Blake in recognition of their contributions. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bourgoin. Final vote was tabled for another meeting.

New Business

The 2027 Library Closed Dates were reviewed. A motion to accept the dates was made by Ms. Marquardt. The motion was seconded by Ms. Levesque. All were in favor. The new dates will be posted to the Library's website.

Ms. Nichting reviewed proposed holiday gifts for staff/volunteers. Ms. Nichting will take the staff out to lunch for the holiday. At that time, she would like to distribute a $100 gift per employee from the Board of Library Trustees. She also requested funding to purchase holiday gifts for each library volunteer as well as two town employees who work at the library under the DPW's operating budget. Mr. Socha made a motion to approve the total request of $1,600. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gruber. All were in favor.

Ms. Nichting requested approval to purchase two rocker seats for the Children's Room. Ms. Bourgoin made a motion to approve two rockers with a max budget of $700. The motion was seconded by Ms. Levesque. All were in favor.

Director's Report

Ms. Nichting reviewed the report for October 2026. She advised that The Reminder newspaper will run an article on the $12k donation by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Ms. Nichting also discussed the non-return of over $900 worth of library materials by an out-of-state patron. She will contact the Somers police to assist in retrieving the library property.

Mr. Kertenis adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Lori Bourgoin.

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING