

**Somers Library Board of Trustees
PO Box 443
Somers, New York 10589**

**MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2026**

President Schnapper called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Trustees present were Nola Blair, Allison Colella, Susan Dillon, Kala Marsh, Christine Rios, Brian Schnapper, Mary Jane Volfson, and Rebecca Wintle.

Bill Keane was absent.

Susan Dillon, Mary Jane Volfson and Rebecca Wintle attended the meeting via Zoom.

Library Director Jessica Veissy and resident Jessica Zhinin were also present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Ms. Blair to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2026 as submitted. All were in favor except for Mrs. Colella who abstained.

Announcements

The following was in the comment box: Ronaldo books, Capybara books, Dewey Decimal System, and Mr. Villagomez was wonderful in his effort to solve my tech issues.

480 people attended the Bubble Bus event.

53 people are registered for the 26 Books in 2026 program.

Thanks were extended to the entire Parks and Recreation Department staff for their continued assistance, support and partnership.

Donations were received in memory of Jerry Lefkowitz at the request of the family, as well as an additional \$50 donation.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Colella presented the Treasurer's Report. It was reviewed and discussed.

Mrs. Marsh made a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers #7, dated July 15, 2026 in the amount of \$32,806.07, which included voucher numbers 117972 to 117986. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rios. All were in favor.

The contractual amount spent this past month was \$32,806.07, including \$1,484.36 from the Gift Fund. The largest expenditures were: Brodart Company (furniture) \$17,853.30, Ingram Library Services (books) \$6,456.14, and Amazon (books) \$1,054.61. Payroll and benefits were \$75,952.87. Total library spending for all accounts was \$108,758.94

Library Director's Report

The staff are welcoming camper visits with movies and activities. The campers entering Kindergarten will visit the Children's Room on Mondays and Wednesdays for story time and a craft.

Policies continue to be worked on and updated.

The subscription to Wall Street Journal has been cut in half to \$5.99 per year.

Shortly, Doyle Security will be conducting their annual inspection of the library and when that is done, the Town Chief Fire Inspector will be present to complete the first test run of the staff fire safety training.

WLS has been working with Lightpath to get the building ready for an upgrade.

3,055 patrons were welcomed to the library in June.

Buildings and Grounds

The new chairs for patron use were delivered on June 24th. Unfortunately, there were some issues (damages, colors and delivery) that Ms. Veissy and Mrs. Widman are working with the vendor on to resolve. Thanks are extended to the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their assistance with the delivery and moving chairs in the building.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston is making arrangements to have Bee & Jay Plumbing replace the water spigot on the back patio. His assistance is appreciated.

The new door counter received for the side entrance had to be returned twice due to several issues with both the device and the accompanying app. Ms. Veissy will be reordering the same model the library currently has at the front door for consistency and reliability.

One of the pull-down blackout shades in the Program Room is broken. Ms. Veissy is trying to locate the original purchase information to confirm the brand and measurements. If she cannot find it, a comparable replacement can be purchased and installed by Town Maintenance staff Marty Stole. In addition, the exit door to the outside of the Program Room is presenting issues. Town Maintenance Staff Martin Gnip will be handling this.

Future projects for the library: carpeting; the leak in the basement emergency door; roof/gutters to avoid window leaks in the Program Room and around the library; and the front doors and pavers are becoming quite worn.

Sueco was in the building today to change the air conditioner filters which were quite clogged.

Grant Review

There should be an update about the Dollar General grant at the end of the summer. Future grants that may be available for the library will be brought to the attention of the Town's grant writers.

Personnel

Former Library Clerk, Lily Konys is now officially a Librarian, congratulations. The library will be welcoming her to the Reference Desk this coming month. As always, Circulation and Reference continue to support one another, and Lily brings valuable experience from both areas.

Professional Development

With three elective courses remaining, Ms. Veissy will earn the Post-MLS Certification in Public Library Administration through the American Library Association upon completion. Fundraising and Grantsmanship will be the next course in the fall.

On June 9th, Edith Felis attended the Technical Services Interest Webinar covering Evergreen upgrades and performance issues.

Terre Thomas attended Path to Belonging: Social Media and Marketing on Tuesday, June 30th.

WLS provides monthly updates on professional development opportunities for library personnel across the County. Staff members complete these webinars and seminars, and the library maintains their certificates on file.

Trustee Training/Development

The Legislators' Appreciation Supper will be held on Tuesday, July 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This event provides a chance for WLS and member libraries to show their appreciation and gratitude to lawmakers for their continued support and partnership.

Minimum Standards for Libraries - Policy Development for Public Usage of Library Space and Meeting Rooms (New York State Library) will be held on Friday, July 10th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. As libraries are increasingly referenced as "third places," it's important to have policies in place to guide the use of meeting rooms and other spaces within our buildings. Article VI of the Library Bill of Rights states that such facilities should be made available to the public served by the given library "on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use." Developing these policies will help library staff and volunteers uphold the First Amendment and the Library Bill of Rights, while ensuring that access to library spaces is provided in a fair, equitable, and consistent manner. Individuals who participate in the live event or view the recorded event are eligible to self-affirm 1 CE hour of trustee education or public librarian certification credit.

Monthly Statistics for June

New Library Cards – 59 (54 adults, 5 juvenile)

ILL Items Received – 1,552

ILL Items Supplied – 985

Monthly Circulation – 13,020

Computer Usage – 70

Door Count – 3,005

WiFi Usage Connections – 927

Reference – 1,179 (Adult/YA) and 219 (Children)

Programs/Attendance – Adult 50/624, Teens 14/289 and Children 28/1,332

Staff Meeting

A staff meeting will be held on July 27th.

Friends of the Somers Library

Ms. Blair reported that the Friends were at the Independence Day Celebration on July 1st in Reis Park. They are working on plans for upcoming programs and a fall appeal letter. Mrs. Volfson reported that the summer reading fundraiser went well. The Friends will be sponsoring a book sale, gently used decoration sale and giving tree. Funds were given to the library for programming and a children's desk.

Meeting with Town Update

Mr. Schnapper reported that the meeting was a business-as-usual conversation which included the retirement of Margaret Widman, Teen Room renovation, and HVAC Replacement. The logistics of coordinating the two projects is of concern and was discussed as well.

Old Business

Teen Room Renovation Update

Bids were received for the Teen Room Renovation and awarded to Spitale Construction at the Town Board meeting on July 9th. Work will begin in October.

HVAC Design Update

OLA completed the design phase of the HVAC for the library and now the engineer design is needed. The Town Board gave permission to solicit RFPs at their meeting on July 9th. They will be due on August 19th with a recommendation made to the Town Board in September. Permission will be requested in September to solicit bids for this project as well.

Bylaws Committee Update

Mrs. Marsh provided everyone with a final draft of the proposed updates to the Bylaws. A couple of changes were proposed: term limits, officers and instead of using the word director, use Trustee. Mrs. Marsh will make the final edits and email the bylaws to everyone. Mrs. Marsh was thanked for her time and efforts in seeing these updates to fruition.

Whistleblower Policy Update

A motion was made by Mrs. Dillon and seconded by Mrs. Colella to approve the revised submission of the Whistleblower Policy.

New Business

Retirement

Margaret Widman, Principal Library Clerk, has formally announced her retirement, with her last full day at the Somers Library scheduled for July 24, 2026. She will reach her 22-year milestone with the library on July 8, 2026. Margaret has been an exceptional employee—consistently hardworking, reliable, and unfailingly positive. Her contributions over the past two decades have made a lasting impact on both staff and patrons, and her presence will be deeply missed. It will be difficult to imagine filling her role, as she has set a standard that will be hard to match. The library is hopeful that Margaret may be able to return in a part-time capacity to assist with some of her current responsibilities. That possibility will be explored with her as she transitions into retirement. The Board of Trustees acknowledged Mrs. Widman's retirement.

Resignation

With regret, Library Director Jessica Veissy announced her resignation as of August 7, 2026. She will be taking the vacant Library Director position at the Larchmont Library. Regrettably her resignation was acknowledged by the Board of Trustees.

At 7:50 p.m. the Trustees went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and the union agreement. They came out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. and made the following decisions:

Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Somers Library and Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO

Mr. Schnapper shared the resolution for the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Somers Library and Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO. A motion was made by Mrs. Marsh and seconded by Ms. Blair to approve the resolution approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Somers Library and Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO. All were in favor.

Margaret Widman

A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Colella to rehire Margaret Widman as a part-time Senior Library Clerk, starting August 6, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$31.00/hour. All were in favor.

Name Tags

The Library Board of Trustees would like the staff to wear name tags. Mrs. Widman and Ms. Veissy will order them.

The meeting was closed at 9:05 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Library Board of Trustees

cc: Library Board of Trustees
Town Board
Town Clerk
Finance Department – Carolyn Brush and Bob Kehoe