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

MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2026

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

The Trustees present were Nola Blair, Susan Dillon, Christine Rios, Brian Schnapper, and Mary Jane Volfson.

Allison Colella, Bill Keane and Kala Marsh were absent.

Susan Dill attended the meeting via Zoom.

Board Liaison Councilwoman Gina Arena, Interim Library Director Elizabeth Anastasi, Library Staff Member Edith Felis, Library Staff Member Juan Carlos Villagomez, Former Library Director Jessica Veissy and resident Jessica Zhinin were also present.

New Trustee
A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Volfson to appoint Jessica Zhinin to fill the Trustee vacancy left by Rebecca Wintle ending on December 31, 2029. All were in favor. Congratulations and welcome Ms. Zhinin.

Interim Library Director
A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Ms. Blair to appoint Liz Anastasi as Interim Library Director at a rate of $400.00 per day for no more than 90 days retroactive to August 3, 2026. All were in favor. Congratulations and welcome Ms. Anastasi.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Mrs. Volfson and seconded by Mrs. Dillon to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2026 as submitted. All were in favor except for Ms. Zhinin who abstained.

Announcements
As presented by Former Library Director Jessica Veissy:

The library receives compliments from patrons daily at both the circulation and reference desks. The staff does an incredible job serving the community, and their dedication, kindness, and commitment truly shines through in the positive feedback that is received.

The library was honored to receive multiple donations in loving memory of Jerry Lefkowitz for June and July. At the family's request, the Somers Library was designated as one of the organizations where memorial donations could be made.

Public Comment
Councilwoman Arena appreciated everything that former Library Director Jessica Veissy did for the Town. She will be missed, but is happy for her.

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

Mrs. Volfson made a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers #8, dated August 19, 2026

in the amount of $53,194.47, which included voucher numbers 118352 to 118380. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dillon. All were in favor.

The contractual amount spent this past month was $53,194.47, including $1,275.00 from the Gift Fund. The largest expenditures were: Westchester Library Services (tech services) $37,179.13, Ingram Library Services (books) $3,269.77, and Children's Plus, Inc. (books) $1,201.22. Payroll and benefits were $113,131.13. Total library spending for all accounts was $166,325.60.

Library Director's Report

As presented by Former Library Director Jessica Veissy:

The Library policies need to be reviewed every 5 years in accordance with the New York State Education Department guidelines (8 NYCRR §90.2). In August the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy will be reviewed and hopefully approved.
The fire drill will have to take place in September for higher staff attendance. It is suggested that the library open at 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. the morning of the drill so that the Fire Inspector has more time to work with the staff.

The WLS Wi-Fi upgrade was completed on July 7, 2026. So far there have been no complaints about speed or access. It is the hope that it will improve the overall user experience.

4,168 patrons were welcomed to the library for the month of July.

Buildings and Grounds

As of mid-July, the distributor of the new chairs purchased maintained that the swatch they provided matched the chairs, despite the photographic evidence we submitted showing otherwise. At this point, the Board can decide whether to pursue the matter further or accept the chairs as they are. Additionally, a third broken chair has been identified. Ms. Veissy had been working with the Brodart representative to address these defects and arrange for replacements. This will need a follow-up.

After a recent storm, the building power went off and on, and it is believed that it shorted out the backup battery to the internet and other wiring in the building. It did its job, thankfully! However, it had to be replaced by AV Comm and resulted in an unexpected cost of just over $1,600.00 this year.

With the transition to the new Lightpath IP address and the replacement of our system backup battery, the online thermostat was inaccessible for approximately one week. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to reach the vendor responsible for the online thermostat system, Automated Systems. Sueco services the HVAC equipment but currently manages only the thermostat for the main air handler. To improve reliability and simplify maintenance, it may be worthwhile to discuss with the Town Supervisor the possibility of migrating the remaining three air handlers to the Sueco managed thermostat system while we await the larger HVAC project. The thermostat installed by Sueco has been extremely beneficial, providing both in-office control and convenient remote access through an online portal and mobile app.

The program room, the ceiling by the Library of Things, and the door downstairs continue to leak during these awful storms. Unfortunately, there have been more heavy storms of late.

Needs to be addressed: 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.

Ms. Anastasi reported that tomorrow morning the staff computers will be updated by WLS with Windows 11. She also mentioned that at some point perhaps in the near future, WLS will no longer be supplying computers.

Grant Review
There should be an update about the Dollar General grant after the summer.

Personnel
Jessica Veissy, Library Director, resigned and her last day was August 7, 2026. Elizabeth Anastasi has been chosen to be Interim Director.

Professional Development
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
There are no updates this month, however all Trustees were reminded that they are required to participate in two hours of training per year.

Monthly Statistics for July
New Library Cards – 79 (62 adults, 9 juvenile, 8 teen)
ILL Items Received – 1,619
ILL Items Supplied – 1,170
Monthly Circulation – 14,264
Computer Usage – 101
Door Count – 4,168
WiFi Usage Connections – 1,272
Reference – 1,324 (Adult/YA) and 201 (Children)
Programs/Attendance – Adult 58/717, Teens 12/108 and Children 26/698

Staff Meeting
Staff updates have been going out weekly via email.

Friends of the Somers Library
Ms. Blair reported that the Friends are working on programs and events through the end of the year and early spring next year. Appeals will be sent out in the fall and a Book Sale will be held. Mrs. Volfson added that a Trivia fundraiser was held offsite recently and it was a great success. The venue has asked that another fundraiser be planned for. She also announced that the Friends will be at the table with the Library at Celebrate Somers on September 26th.

Meeting with Town Update
Mr. Schnapper reported that the meetings with the Town are a bit off schedule. At the last meeting, Ms. Anastasi was introduced. The discussion included upcoming projects, the Director search and a new Trustee.

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. The first part of the project will be installing a new fire exit door. Once installed, the workers can use it to get in and out of the building. Prior to that, arrangements will be made to have maintenance staff there at 7:00 a.m. to let them in until the Library staff arrive.

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 for bid documents to be created. The RFP's were due today and a recommendation will made to the Town Board in September. In addition, permission will be requested in September to solicit bids for this project as well.

Bylaws Committee Update
Mrs. Marsh had 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.

Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy
All policies have to be updated by the end of the year. A draft of the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

Trustees or the Town - Roles, Responsibilities and Funding
Mrs. Volfson prepared and distributed a document to aid in a better understanding of what the Trustees and the Town's roles and responsibilities are as well as the funding model, including the now defunct Reader's Digest Fund. She looks forward to getting some feedback. This discussion will continue.

Payout Vacation Days
A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Volfson to pay Jessica Veissy for 11.03 vacation days. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Volfson to pay Margaret Widman for 15.08 vacation days. All were in favor.

Trustee Resignation
With regrets, the Board acknowledged the resignation of Rebecca Wintle as a Trustee of the Library Board.

Retro and Longevity Payment for New CWA Union Contract
It was acknowledged that the Board President and Former Library Director approved retro and longevity payments as per the New CWA Union Contract. The Finance Department has already disbursed.

ALA Fundamentals of Management Series Reimbursement
A motion was made by Mrs. Rios and seconded by Ms. Blair to reimburse Ms. Anastasi $206.10 for an on-line class that she is taking between September 14th and October 9th. All were in favor.

At 8:15 p.m. the Trustees went into Executive Session to discuss personnel. They came out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 8:55 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Wednesday, September 16th 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