

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LIBRARY TRUSTEE

SUMMARY

Library trustees are the governing board of the library. (RSA 202-A:2) The Board of Trustees shall have the entire custody and management of the public library and all related property except trust funds held by the town. (RSA 202-A:6) The Board of Trustees has sole responsibility for hiring and firing employees of a public library (RSA 202-A:16-17) and the securing of sufficient funds to provide and maintain adequate library service (RSA 202-A:4).

Trustees are elected by the general population and represent the community to the library and the library to the community. A Trustee or appointed alternate must be a resident of the municipality the library serves (RSA 669:6).

EXPECTATIONS

- Ability to devote the time and effort required by the duties of trusteeship.
- Knowledge of the services provided by the library.
- Commitment to the library's role in the community.
- Understanding of the community's social, educational, and political structure.
- Ability to work professionally and collaboratively with others.
- Maintain professional conduct in written and oral communication.
- Participate with local, state, and national government and library leaders to improve library service at all levels.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEE

- **Advocates** for the library and library service in the community, state, and nation.
- **Participates** actively in and contributes to the meetings and work of the board.
- **Seeks** training opportunities for enhancing the performance of trustee duties and responsibilities.
- **Acts** as a member of a board and assumes individually only those duties delegated by the board.
- **Utilizes** the Library Trustee Manual and acquires full knowledge or awareness of local, state, and federal laws pertaining to the governance of a public library.
- **Participates** in state and national library organizations.
- **Supports** all decisions reached by the board.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- **Recruits**, hires, supervises, and reviews performance of the library director.
- **Hires** all other employees of the library and determines their duties and wages upon recommendation of the library director.

- **Votes** on the strategic plan and evaluates the library’s performance in accomplishing its mission on an annual basis.
- **Establishes**, reviews, and revises all policies, including but not limited to personnel, material selection/use and the use of the building.
- **Ensures** adherence to all local, state and federal laws that pertain to the library, library employees and the accessibility of materials to the public.
- **Prepares** the annual budget in conjunction Exwith the library director.
- **Presents** and defends the budget to the municipal budgetary authority each year.
- **Exercises** sole authority to determine budget lines for expenditures and move monies from one budget line to another.
- **Reviews** budget on a regular basis and approves expenditures for unforeseen circumstances.
- **Maintains** library revenue in a separate non-lapsing account from the operating budget and approves all expenditures of those funds.
- **Ensures** adequate insurance to cover the building equipment, collection materials, and their replacement costs.
- **Adopts**, reviews and revises bylaws, rules ,and regulations for the board’s own transaction of business and for the governance of the library.

I, _____, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the qualifications, expectations, and responsibilities outlined in ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LIBRARY TRUSTEE.

Trustee name: _____

Trustee signature: _____

Date: _____

Acknowledgement received by: _____
(name and title)