

Sunderland Public Library Board of Trustee Bylaws

Article I – Name and Authorization

This organization shall be called “The Board of Trustees of the Sunderland Public Library of Sunderland, Massachusetts,” existing by virtue of the provisions of Chapter 78, Sections 10-13, and 21 of the General Laws of Massachusetts (MGL), and exercising the powers and authority and assuming the responsibilities delegated to it under the said statute.

Article II – Membership

1. The Board shall comprise nine Trustees.
2. The Trustees shall be elected by the people of the Town of Sunderland at the annual Town Election according to a schedule of three Trustees every year for a period of three years each.
3. Any member may resign by written notice filed with the Town Clerk, as provided for in MGL, Chapter 41, Section 109. Upon receipt of the notice, the Town Clerk will notify the remaining members of the Board.
4. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled by joint majority vote of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Selectmen in accordance with MGL, Chapter 41, Section 11.
5. Any member who misses four consecutive meetings will receive a letter from the Chair reminding the member that regular attendance is a responsibility of all Trustees and that those unable to attend regularly should consider resigning from the Board. Copies of these letters shall be included in the Board’s minutes. In the event of illness or other extenuating circumstance, exceptions to this provision may be made by formal vote of the Board.

Article III – Responsibilities

1. The Board shall have those responsibilities as provided by MGL, Chapter 78, Section 11 and the Bylaws of the Town of Sunderland as regards the custody and management of the library and of all property owned by the Town pertaining to the library. The Board shall be responsible for all monies appropriated by the Town for the library and all money or property received by the Town by gift or bequest for the library.
2. Appoint a qualified Library Director who shall be the executive and administration officer of the library on behalf of the Board and under its review and direction.
3. Prepare a written employment contract for the Library Director, detailing the basic conditions of employment, as provided by MGL, Chapter 78, Section 34.
4. Establish a written policy for the selection of library materials and the use of library materials and facilities which is in accord with the current standards of the ALA, as provided by MGL, Chapter 78, Section 33.
5. Determine, in consultation with the Library Director, policies and maintain a written record of them.

6. Advise the Library Director in preparation of the library budget, adopt the final budget document, participate in its presentation to Town boards and officials and work for its adoption by the municipality.
7. Through the Library Director, monitor the maintenance of buildings and grounds, and regularly review facility needs to see that they meet the requirements of the total library program.
8. Represent the community's needs in an on-going planning process which assesses the needs of the library and the role of the library in the community; speak and act as an advocate for the library in the community; participate in an active public relations program.
9. Study and support legislation which will benefit the library and the larger library community.

Article IV – Officers

1. The officers of the Board shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Secretary. (MGL, Section 78, Section 10 authorizes the Town to vote to establish an office of Board Treasurer. The legislation specifies that “until the Town otherwise directs, the Town Treasurer shall act as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.”)
2. The Chair shall conduct all meetings, appoint all committees, serve as the official representative of the Board and fulfill all legal functions on behalf of the Board.
3. The Vice-Chair, in the absence of the Chair, shall perform the duties of the Chair.
4. The Secretary shall post all meetings as required by law, keep a true record of all meetings of the Board and be responsible for correspondence as directed by the Board.
5. Officers shall be elected from the Board at that regular meeting of the Board which immediately follows the Annual Town Meeting elections. The term of office shall be one year. The officers shall not serve more than three consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy in any officers' positions during the year, that vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the Board.

Article V – Meetings

1. Regular meetings to be held at the date, time and place designated at the preceding meeting. The May meeting will be the annual meeting.
2. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair or upon written request of three members, for the transaction of business as stated in the meeting request. Notice stating the time and place of any special meeting and the purpose for which it is called shall be given each member of the board of Trustees at least seven days in advance of the meeting.
3. A quorum for transaction of business shall consist of five members of the Board.
4. All meetings of the Board shall be subject to the State's Open Meeting Law, as contained in MGL, Chapter 39, unless held in executive session under the terms of the law. A notice of meetings except in case of emergency, will be filed with the Town Clerk at least 48 hours beforehand and a copy of the notice will be posted in the Town Hall. Further, all records of minutes or meetings will be available for public inspection.

Article VI – Library Director and Staff

The Library Director shall select and appoint other employees and shall be responsible for the proper direction and supervision of staff; for the care and maintenance of library property; for the selection of books and other library materials and maintenance of the library's materials collection in keeping with the *Collection Development Policy* adopted by the Board; for the effectiveness of library services to the public; and for the library's financial operation within the limitations of the approved budget. The Library Director shall attend all Board meetings and shall advise the Board in library matters, including making policy and budget recommendations.

Article VII – Committees

1. Appointment – The Chair shall appoint committees of one or more members each for such specific purposes as the business of the Board may require from time to time. The Committee shall be considered to be discharged upon completion of the purpose for which it was appointed and after the final report is made to the Board.
2. Reports – All committees shall make a progress report to the Board at each of its meetings, as required.
3. Powers – No committee will have other than advisory powers unless by suitable action of the board it is granted specific power to act.

Article VIII – Collective Authority of the Board

All decisions of the Board are made by the Board as a collective body. No individual member may make decisions or, with the exception of the Chair, act or speak for the Board unless specifically authorized to do so by a vote of the membership of the Board.

Article IX – Parliamentary Rules

Except as provided for by these bylaws, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern.

Article X – Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board with a quorum present, by a majority vote of the members present, provided that a motion presenting the amendment was duly made and seconded at the previous regular meeting.