

# Town of Gainesville Public Library By-Laws

## PREAMBLE

The Board of Trustees (hereinafter designated as the "Board") of the Town of Gainesville Public Library created under a charter granted under Section 253 of the New York State Education Law by the Board of Regents (or Secretary of State) of the State of New York, date February 27, 1964; Regents on June 27, 1969; Absolute September 21, 1973 , shall be governed by the laws of New York State, the regulations of the Commissioner of Education and by the following bylaws.

## NAME OF ORGANIZATION

- The name of the organization shall be the Town of Gainesville Public Library.

## PURPOSE

- **Mission Statement:** The Town of Gainesville Public Library's mission is to provide and maintain a facility dedicated to serving the general public with informational and recreational materials and services.

The Library is committed to providing materials in popular demand, to support and encourage early childhood education, to be a doorway to learning, furnishing educational services in the broadest sense.

The policy of the Library will be to provide free library services of a general nature to the people of the community regardless of educational background, religion, race, age, politics or special needs in a variety of print and non-print formats.

The Library will strive to accomplish its mission in a cost-effective manner and proportionate to levels of use and demand while reflecting a variety of opinions.

- **Objectives:**
  - The Town of Gainesville Public Library shall strive to:
    1. Facilitate informal self education
    2. Support formal education at all levels
    3. Encourage recreational reading at all levels
  - The Library will adopt and observe the following items in pursuit of its stated mission and objectives.
    1. Statement of views
    2. Collection Development Plan
    3. Operations Policies and Procedures
    4. Personal Policy

## FISCAL

- The Fiscal Year of the library shall be CALNDAR YEAR

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- The library shall be governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board shall consist of not less than five (5) nor more than (15) members with the current number being 5, appointed by the Town of Gainesville for terms of five years each.
- Newly appointed members will take office at the first meeting following the annual meeting.
- Eligibility for Trustee shall be limited to adults residing or owning property within the Town of Gainesville.
- Absence from three consecutive meetings shall constitute automatic dismissal from the Board unless the Board defers this dismissal by majority vote. The President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing that they are no longer on the Board. If dismissal is deferred by Board action the President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing the conditions of this deferral.
- Any vacancy shall be filled by special appointment by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the term of that particular position.
- The Board may remove a Trustee for misconduct, incapacity, neglect of duty or refusal to carry into effect the library's educational purpose as provided in Education Law 226; subdivision 8.
- Each Trustee shall have one vote, irrespective of office held.
- A Trustee must be present at a meeting to have his/her vote counted.
- A majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) is required for any motion to pass.
- All actions of the Board shall be of the Board as a unit. No Board member shall act on behalf of the Board, on any matter, without prior approval of the Board. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the library nor, as an individual, command the services of any library employee.

## OFFICERS

- The officers of the Board shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected annually by the Board at the annual meeting. These officers shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors shall have been duly elected.
- The duties of such officers shall be as follows:
  - The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Board, authorize calls for any special meetings, appoint all committees, execute all documents authorized by the Board, serve as an ex-officio voting member of all committees, and generally perform all duties associated with that office.
  - The **Vice President**, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, or of a vacancy in that office, shall assume and perform the duties and functions of the President.
  - The **Secretary** shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the Board, shall issue notice of all regular and special meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with that office.
  - The **Treasurer** (Many public libraries must appoint an independent Treasurer who is not a member of the Board. See chapter on Board Organization.) shall be the disbursing officer of the Board and shall perform such duties as generally devolve upon the office. In the absence or inability of the Treasurer, his/her duties shall be performed by such other members of the Board as the Board may designate.

## DIRECTOR

- The Board shall appoint a Director who shall be the chief executive officer of the library corporation and shall have charge of the administration of the library under the direction and review of the Board. The Director shall be responsible for the care of the buildings and equipment; for the employment and direction of the staff; for the efficiency of the library's service to the public; and for the operation of the library under the financial conditions contained in the annual budget.
- The Director shall render and submit to the Board reports and recommendations of such policies and procedures, which, in the opinion of the Director, will improve efficiency and quality of library service. The Director shall attend all Board meetings except the portion of the meeting at which the director's appointment or salary is to be discussed or decided.

## COMMITTEES

- A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President three months prior to the Annual Meeting who will present a slate of officers and names of candidates for new trustees. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- Committees for specific purposes may be appointed by the President. Such committees shall serve until the completion of the work for which they were appointed.
- All committees shall make a progress report to the Board at each of its meetings.
- No committee will have other than advisory powers unless, by suitable action of the Board, it is granted specific power to act.
- The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees

## MEETINGS

- Meetings shall be held each month, the date and hour to be set by the Board. Written notice of all meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least five days before the meeting.
- A special meeting of the Board may be called at any time by the President or upon the request of three members for a specific purpose. No business may be transacted at such special meeting except the stated business.
- The Annual Meeting shall be held in FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING of each year. The business transacted at this meeting shall include the election of new trustees and new officers.
- The preliminary budget for the subsequent calendar year, required for submission to the Town of Gainesville, shall be presented at the regular meeting in SEPTEMBER.
- The final budget for the subsequent calendar year shall be presented for approval at a SPECIAL meeting Called by President .
- A simple majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of all business. A majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) is required for any motion to pass. If a quorum is not present at a regular meeting, the attending members may set a date for another meeting to be held within one week, and the presiding officer shall notify the absent members of this specially called meeting.

## Town of Gainesville Public Library BY-LAWS

- Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed at any meeting and shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting. Written notice of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be sent to all absent members at least ten days prior to the voting session. A simple majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) shall be sufficient for adoption of an amendment.
- Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these By-laws or otherwise, may be suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand, but such suspension, to be valid, may be taken only at a meeting at which two-thirds of the members of the Board shall be present and two-thirds of those present shall so approve.
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- Adopted by the Town of Gainesville Public Library Board Trustees, February 7, 1994
- Amended by Board of Trustees: April 1995; Jan 1999; Feb 2005; April 2006; June 2007
- Amended by Board of Trustees: August 8, 2022