

Mission Statement

The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library exists to provide quality service to the residents of Philipstown in an open and non-judgmental environment with free access to library materials in a variety of formats.

Preamble

The Board of Trustees (hereinafter designated as the "Board") of The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, a corporation 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, dated 1927, shall be governed by the laws of New York State, the regulations of the Commissioner of Education and by the following by-laws.

Bylaws

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

- a. The name of the organization shall be the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library

2. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of the organization is to provide superior library service to the residents, adults and children, of the communities of Philipstown.

3. FISCAL

- a. The fiscal year of the library shall be January 1st to December 31st.

4. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- a. The library shall be governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board shall consist of a minimum of four members. Newly appointed members will take office at the first meeting following the annual meeting or when the Board otherwise determines.
- b. Eligibility for office shall be limited to adults residing or owning property within the geographical limits of the library district.
- c. 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 he/she is 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.

- d. Any vacancy shall be filled by special election by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the term of that particular position.
- e. Each Trustee shall have one vote, irrespective of office held.
- f. A Trustee must be present at a meeting to have his/her vote counted unless the Trustee participated at the meeting telephonically and the majority of the Board present at the meeting approves allowing the absent Trustee's vote to be counted.
- g. 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.

5. OFFICERS

- a. 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.
- b. The duties of such officers shall be as follows:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.

- iv. The Treasurer 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.

6. DIRECTOR

- a. The Board shall appoint a Director who shall be the executive officer of the policies of the Board 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.

7. COMMITTEES

- a. A nominating committee may be appointed by the President, three months prior to the Annual Meeting that will present a slate of officers and names of candidates for new trustees. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- b. 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 or upon the end of the fiscal year. If necessary, committees shall be reauthorized at the annual meeting.
- c. All committees shall make a progress report to the Board at each of its meetings.
- d. No committee will have other than advisory powers unless, by suitable action of the Board, it is granted specific power to act.

- e. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees.

8. MEETINGS

- a. Meetings should be held each month, the date and hour to be set by the Board. The Board shall hold at least ten meetings annually.
- b. 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.
- c. The Annual Meeting shall be held in January of each year. The business transacted at this meeting shall include the appointment of new trustees and new officers.
- d. The operating and financial reports for the previous year shall be presented at the regular meeting in January.
- e. The preliminary budget for the subsequent calendar year, required for submission to the Philipstown residents, shall be presented at the regular meeting in October.
- f. The final budget for the subsequent calendar year shall be presented for approval at the regular meeting in December.
- g. A simple majority of the existing Board shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of all business. 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.
- h. The order of business for regular meetings shall include, but not be limited to, the following items which shall be covered in the sequence shown unless circumstances make an altered order more efficient:
 - i. Roll call of members
 - ii. Disposition of minutes of previous regular meeting and any intervening special meetings
 - iii. Treasurer's report and action on warrants
 - iv. Director's report
 - v. Committee reports
 - vi. Communications

- vii. Old business
- viii. New business
- ix. Period for Public Expression
- x. Adjournment

9. AMENDMENTS

- a. Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed at any regular 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 Board shall be sufficient for adoption of an amendment.
- b. Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these By-Laws or other wise, 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.

10. PROCEDURE

- a. All procedures not specified herein shall be in accord with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.