

With reference to complaints received about the Conway Public Library's upcoming program, the Board of Trustees notes and reaffirms our Code of Ethics.

Our Code of Ethics states that all Trustees will “Sustain the core freedoms of our democracy and the principle of intellectual freedom by providing equal access to a broad diversity of viewpoints, beliefs, information, and the various forms of media.”

The Board of Trustees notes and reaffirms our Meeting Room Policy.

The Meeting Room Policy states that “The Conway Public Library meeting space is available for use by members of our communities to encourage free expression and free access to ideas presenting all points of view on subjects of all kinds. Conway Public Library supports and endorses the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights, which states that public library meeting rooms, ‘should be made available to the public served by the given Library on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or the affiliations of the individuals or groups requesting their use.’ ”

Additionally, the Board of Trustees notes and reaffirms our Library Use Policy.

The Library Use Policy states that “Service will not be denied to anyone who visits the library (on site, by phone, or virtually) because of religious, racial, social, economic or political status, disability, age, or sexual orientation.”

The Board of Trustees also notes and reaffirms our Vision Statement.

Our Vision Statement includes among the library's aims:

- “Encouraging literacy and lifelong learning,”
- “Responding to the diverse needs of our community,” and
- “Offering space for people and ideas to come together.”

The Board of Trustees’ first duty as a body under RSA 202-A is to “Adopt bylaws, rules and regulations for its own transaction of business and for the government of the library.” Our bylaws list our first duty as “formulation, adoption, and revision of policies.”

The library director under RSA 202-A is the “administrative officer of the library.” In this role, the library director and his or her designated staff are responsible for determining what programs the library will offer for our community, in compliance with library policies as set by the Board of Trustees.

This division of responsibility between policy making and day-to-day management of the library is further echoed in those guidelines issued by our respective professional associations, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association and the American Library Association.

In other words, it is the Library Director's job to determine what programs are offered, and to do so by following the guidelines set in place by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has found this program to be in compliance with the policies and procedures adopted by this board.

