

PREAMBLE

The West Tisbury Free Public Library is a department of the Town of West Tisbury, governed by a board of trustees elected by town voters. Representing the town's interests, the board of trustees establishes the library's policies and hires a director to put those policies into practice. In turn, the director is charged with running the library on a day-to-day basis, hiring and supervising staff, and putting into place procedures that reflect the intentions of the trustees and, ultimately, the needs and wishes of the town.

These roles and responsibilities are more than a mere formality. Distinguishing between the role of the board of trustees and role of the director is essential to understanding the policies that follow, and the workings of the library in general. The director has sole discretion over the selection, hiring and supervision of personnel within the broader system administered by the town's Personnel Board. And while it is the library board that sets the principles guiding the content of the collection, patron access to materials, and use of the library facility, the director has the final authority to choose or reject individual materials, schedule programs, and enforce rules, fees, fines and due dates.

These policies were written and approved by the library board of trustees. They were developed in cooperation with the library director and staff, incorporating practices mandated and recommended by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and evolving out of more than a century of experience at the West Tisbury Free Public Library. Inevitably the policies will continue to grow and change with the town and the times. The board of trustees always welcomes comments, questions and suggestions from the public, either written or presented in person at the board's monthly meetings.