

# LIBRARY TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

## RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

1. Trustees must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the board even if they personally disagree.
2. Trustees will not promote, foster, or perpetuate discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, age, gender, marital status, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, ancestry or any other protected category.
3. Trustees shall respect the opinion of their colleagues and not be critical or disrespectful when they disagree or oppose a viewpoint different than their own.
4. Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of library staff with respect to intellectual property rights and the balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
5. Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of library staff to protect patron information and privacy.
6. A trustee must respect the confidential nature of library business while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing transparency of information.
7. Trustees must be prepared to support to the fullest the efforts of library staff in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.
8. Trustees who accept appointment to a library board are expected to perform the functions of library trustees.
9. Trustees shall focus on the strategic goals and vision of the library and not interfere with the daily management responsibilities of the Director or the supervision of library staff.