

BYLAWS OF THE BRIDGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Article I: Name and Location

1. The name of the Corporation is the Bridgton Public Library, and its permanent location shall be at Bridgton, County of Cumberland, State of Maine. It is a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Maine and a charitable, publicly supported, exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article II: Function

1. The function of the Bridgton Public Library is to render the best service possible through its facilities to all residents and property taxpayers of the Town of Bridgton. This function is further expressed in the approved "mission statement" as follows: *The Bridgton Public Library's primary purpose is to serve the community as its information and cultural enrichment center. It endeavors to provide access to educational, informational, and recreational resources in a friendly, safe atmosphere, and to be responsive to the changing needs of the community.*

- a. Each Bridgton citizen is entitled to all Library privileges as long as they observe the rules and regulations of the Library.
- b. Non-residents may be granted Library privileges on terms established in the Borrowing and Circulation Policy.
- c. The Bridgton Public Library shall abide by all provisions of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III: The Corporation

1. Membership in the Corporation shall be open to all Bridgton residents or taxpayers as well as residents of the Greater Bridgton Area. Members of the Library Board of Trustees (hereafter "the Board") shall be qualified members of the Corporation and will constitute the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
2. Seven members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Corporation.
3. The officers of the Corporation (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be the same as the officers of the Board.

4. The members of the Corporation shall hold a meeting annually with the date, hour, and place determined by the Board. The purpose of the meeting shall be to:
 - a. Elect up to five Trustees for a three-year term and/or to elect other Trustees as appropriate.
 - b. Receive annual reports.
 - c. Adopt bylaw changes.
 - d. Transact any other business as required by the members of the Corporation.
5. Notice of the annual meeting of the Corporation shall be posted in the Library and in "The Bridgton News" at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
6. An emergency or special meeting of the Corporation may be called by the President and must be called by the Secretary upon written request of any two members of the Corporation. In case of emergency, the Executive Committee of the Board (the four officers, plus one optionally appointed Trustee) has the authority to act on behalf of the Corporation.
7. At any meeting of the Corporation, each member shall have one vote on a motion or question.

Article IV: Board of Trustees

1. The business and affairs of the Corporation of the Bridgton Public Library shall be managed and controlled by the Board whose members shall be at least 80-100% Bridgton residents or Bridgton taxpayers and the remainder must reside in the Greater Bridgton Area
2. The Board shall:
 - a. Consist of up to 15 Trustees. (The Library Director may not serve as a Trustee but attends Board meetings to report on Library operations.)
 - b. Fill a Trustee vacancy at any time during the year on recommendation of the Governance Committee.
 - c. Fill an officer vacancy at any time during the year on recommendation of the Governance Committee.
 - d. Establish policies to govern the operation of the Library.
 - e. Employ a qualified Library Director.
 - f. Provide sufficient funding to operate the Library.
 - g. Oversee the general operation of the Library.

3. A Trustee who misses three consecutive meetings, without explanation acceptable to the Board, shall be presumed to have resigned and shall be contacted by the President.

Article V: Duties of Officers

1. The President, as chief officer of the Board and of the Corporation, shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, and will be an ex-officio member of all standing committees. The President or their designee shall issue notices of Board and Corporation meetings.
2. The past President, if not otherwise continuing as a Trustee, may serve on the Board in an advisory capacity, at the wish of the current President, for one year.
3. The Vice President shall:
 - a. Assist the President.
 - b. Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
4. The Secretary shall:
 - a. Keep accurate minutes of all Board proceedings and present them in a timely manner.
5. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the collection and, subject to the direction of the Board, proper expenditure of all funds.
 - b. Cause all funds to be deposited in suitable depositories as designated by the Board
 - c. Furnish to the Board a monthly financial statement and a quarterly balance sheet
 - d. Perform such other duties as these bylaws may require or the Board may direct.

Article VI: Financial Controls

1. Contingent upon a Corporate Resolution naming specific individuals and approved by the Board, the Library Director, President, and Treasurer shall have check signing authority.
2. The President or Treasurer must sign any check written in an amount in excess of \$1,000.
3. A certified public accountant shall be engaged annually to review the Treasurer's accounts and reports and shall render a financial report to the Board.

Article VII: Meetings of the Board

1. The Board shall hold regular monthly meetings at a date, hour, and place determined by the President. The President may, at their discretion, waive a monthly meeting but shall not waive more than two meetings in a fiscal year.

2. The President or their designee shall conduct board meetings on the basis of consensus and in conformity with Bridgton Public Library By-Laws and the Maine Non-Profit Corporation Act (Title 13B). Board members shall submit their votes in person and/or via an online medium. With a quorum present, a simple majority in the affirmative will signify approval of a motion. While voting by email is generally discouraged, when an in-person or virtual meeting is deemed impractical, voting by email will be allowed when the President declares it a necessity.
3. Notice shall be given to all Trustees at least five days prior to the date of the meeting.
4. The President may call an emergency meeting of the Board. Upon written request of any two members of the Board, the Secretary must call an emergency meeting. In case of emergency, the Executive Committee has the authority to act on behalf of the Board.
5. The Board shall hold an annual meeting concurrent with the annual meeting of the Corporation to elect officers of the Board and Corporation.
6. More than one-half of the current membership of the Board, either in person or via audio/video conference, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting or special meeting.
7. Regularly scheduled meetings of the library Trustees are open to members of the library corporation.

Article VIII: Committees and Liaisons of the Board

1. Standing committee membership is for a term of one year.
2. The President shall assign members of the standing committees not later than 60 days following the annual meeting of the Board.
3. Standing committees' functions are advisory to the Board. Committees, however, are authorized to take prompt action when such action is considered to be in the best interests of the Library. Any such action must be reported promptly to the President. Standing Committee composition and functions are listed below:
 - a. The **Executive Committee** consists of the officers of the Board plus one other Trustee optionally appointed by the President and meets at the call of the President when consultation or emergency action is required. Decisions by the Executive Committee shall be reported in a timely fashion to the Board of Trustees.
 - b. The **Finance Committee** includes the Treasurer, the President, and at least one other Trustee. It shall oversee the financial operations of the Library, submit an annual budget for Board approval, and oversee the implementation of the investment policy and guidelines for the invested funds.

c. The **Governance Committee** consists of at least two Board members and develops a list of nominees of new and continuing Trustees and officers for recommendation to the Board. The Committee also conducts periodic reviews of the By-Laws, reviews Board policies, conducts orientation sessions for new Trustees, proposes programs for Board education, and arranges for self-evaluation of Board performance. The Committee periodically reviews the Library's mission, vision, and values.

d. The **Strategic Steering Committee** consists of at least three Board members. It assesses and evaluates the Action Plan goals from the Strategic Plan which includes Programs and Services, Finance, and Building goals. They periodically review membership and partnership opportunities for Bridgton Public Library.

e. The **Buildings and Grounds Liaison** acts as Board liaison between the Board and the Library Director regarding repairs and maintenance of the Library's buildings and grounds.

f. The **Personnel Liaison** reviews the Library Director's annual evaluations of the staff, facilitates a yearly performance review of the Library Director by the Board of Trustees, They act as Board liaison if there is a Concern Form filed related to the Library Director, if there is any Harassment Report filed, or if there are any Whistleblower Proceedings.

g. The Four on the 4th Liaison attends those organization's meetings on behalf of and reports back to the Board of Trustees.

h. The Friends of Bridgton Library Liaison attends those organization's meetings on behalf of and reports back to the Board of Trustees.

4. Ad hoc committees are appointed by the President as needed.

Article IX: Friends of the Bridgton Public Library

1. The Friends of the Bridgton Public Library shall be an associate organization whose purpose shall be to support the Bridgton Public Library.

2. To ensure collaboration and strengthen communication, at least one Trustee will attend Friends meetings.

3. The President of the Friends or another appointed representative may attend meetings of the Library Board of Trustees in a non-voting capacity.

4. All actions by the Friends will comply with the policies of the Library.

5. The Friends will submit a fiscal year financial report annually in July to the Board Treasurer.

Article X: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended, added to, or generally revised, at any annual meeting or special meeting of the Corporation, provided notice of the proposed changes are posted in the Library at least seven days before the date of the meeting.

Article XI: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Bridgton Public Library shall begin July 1 and end June 30.

Article XII: Indemnification

The Corporation shall indemnify each Trustee and officer and the Library Director against all judgments, fines, settlement payments, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, paid or incurred in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, to which they may be made a part or with which they may be threatened by reason of being or having been a Trustee, or officer of the Corporation, or, at its request, a director, officer, shareholder or member of any other corporation, firm or association of which the corporation is a shareholder or creditor and by which they are not so indemnified, or by reason of any action or omission by them in such capacity, whether or not they continue to be a Trustee or officer at the time of incurring such expenses or at the time the indemnification is made. No indemnification shall be made hereunder:

- a. With respect to payments and expenses incurred in relation to matters as to which he shall be finally adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding not have acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the Corporation, or
- b. With respect to actions by or in the right of the corporation otherwise prohibited by law.

The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which any Trustee or officer may otherwise be entitled and shall inure to the benefit of the executor or administrator of such Trustee or officer.

Article XIII: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

By-laws originally adopted February 3, 1954

As amended -

February 2, 1955
February 1, 1961
February 24, 1976
February 13, 1990 (with Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation)
February 8, 2001
February 14, 2002
February 13, 2003 (Article X)
May 2004 (Article XI)
November 20, 2007
September 20, 2011
September 17, 2013
September 15, 2015
September 18, 2018
September 17, 2019
September 15, 2020
September 21, 2021 (Article III-7)
September 20, 2022
September 17, 2024