



Policy Name: Statement of Mission, Policy, and Board of Directors Function

Approved by Library Board: May 16, 2023

Mission Statement

The Salem Free Public Library improves the quality of life for the public by providing resources that build a sense of community and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment, and enjoyment.

Statement of Policy

- The Salem Free Public Library exists in order that it may maintain, for the use of the community, educational, recreational, and informational materials assembled in organized collections.
- The library's goal is to provide the best materials for the largest number at the lowest cost.
- It is the responsibility of the library to provide materials for people of all ages, and to give guidance in their use. Its operation is in the hands of the Salem Free Public Library's elected Board of Directors, and its support is primarily from public funds. Therefore, it must function as a public agency to merit continuing taxpayer support.

Board of Directors

Subject to the Town Charter, the principal functions of the Library Board of Directors are as follows:

- Determine library policies appropriate to the needs of the community and to reexamine them periodically.
- Appoint, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen, a qualified library director to direct the activities of the library.
- Evaluate the Library Director
- Approve the budget (subject to approval by the Board of Finance) and the expenditures of the library's funds.
- Attend all Board meetings and see that accurate records are kept. Regularly inform other governing boards and the citizens of Salem.

This policy is intended to be construed consistent with Town Charter, Town Ordinances and state and federal law. Town Charter, Ordinances and state and federal law shall govern to the extent conflict exists.