

North Chatham Free Library

Trustee Code of Ethics

Approved by Library Board on July 10, 2025

Statement of Commitment

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the North Chatham Free Library—and of each individual trustee—to ensure that the Library provides excellent, equitable, and ethical library service to the residents of the community we serve. This Code of Ethics represents our shared commitment to uphold the public trust.

The North Chatham Free Library subscribes to the *American Library Association's Code of Ethics* and recognizes the importance of codifying these standards for transparency and accountability. Failure to adhere to this Code of Ethics may result in removal from the Board.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

- Trustees shall conduct themselves with absolute truth, integrity, and honor in all matters related to the Library.
- Trustees must distinguish between personal beliefs and the collective decisions of the Board, and shall publicly support board actions once adopted by majority vote.
- Trustees must respect the confidential nature of Library business while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information. Trustees must not divulge information learned during executive sessions of the Board or any information regarding future Board plans or actions until such action is officially taken.
- Trustees shall recuse themselves immediately from any matter where a personal conflict of interest, or even the appearance of one, may exist. (See: Conflict of Interest Policy)
- Trustees shall make decisions based on the best interest of the North Chatham Free Library. No special preference shall be given to any individual, town, or group.
- Trustees must support Library staff in their professional responsibility to provide uncensored access to materials and resist censorship efforts.
- Trustees are responsible for setting policy and monitoring its implementation, but shall not interfere in the Library's day-to-day operations.
- Trustees shall comply with the Open Meetings Law and all other applicable regulations.
- Trustees who accept a position on the Library Board are expected to attend meetings regularly, participate actively, and complete assigned tasks. Trustees unable to fulfill these responsibilities should resign so that another community member may serve.