

# ***West Hurley Public Library Policies***

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## ADMINISTRATIVE

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### EMERGENCY PLAN POLICY

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The Library will maintain an active library emergency plan.

If the Library Director is not in the building, call the Director to advise him/her of an emergency.

The Library Director, Board President, or Building Committee Chair must approve building repair expenses in the case of an emergency.

The Library will be closed for emergencies (snow, building problems, heat, air conditioning, etc.) upon the agreement of the staff member on duty and one board member.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW (FOIL)

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The West Hurley Library as a New York State governmental entity complies, as required by law, with the New York Freedom of Information Law (Public Officer Law, Article 6, Section 8470, Freedom of Information Law).

A person may request information and records available to the public in the following manner:

1. Submit a written request to the Library Director.
2. Specify the records requested to be disclosed for inspection or to be copied.
3. Reimburse us our actual costs for reproducing the records: \$.25 per page.
4. The Library Director will respond to a written request within five (5) working days or sooner if possible. An extension of an additional fifteen (15) working days may be necessary to properly respond and if so the reason for doing this will be explained.
5. Inspect or copy records in person. An employee must be present throughout the inspection.
6. Make an appeal about the decision of the Director to the Board of Trustees
7. The place and times where the records will be available are regular library hours.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

### FRIENDS

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The Friends Group of the West Hurley Public Library is organized to support quality library service through advocacy, fundraising and volunteering in ways that promote the policies and long-range plan of the library.

To insure clear communication between Friends and Trustees:

- Friends should be made aware of the Library's policies and long-range strategic plans.
- Board Members should attend Friends events to show support of their efforts.
- Board Members can join the Friends Group; however, a Library Trustee should not serve on the Friends board.

The Library Director, unless otherwise decided by the Board, shall be the liaison between the Friends and the Library.

All monies raised, apart from the administrative needs of the Friends (e.g. postage, printing, fund-raising, etc.), will be spent exclusively for Library programs, services, and other Library defined needs unless otherwise agreed to by both the Friends and the Library. The Library Director and the Board of Trustees have the final say in accepting or declining gifts made to the Library from the Friends Group.

If the Friends cease to conduct a membership meeting for more than a six-month period or upon request of the Friends, the Library may take steps to form a new Friends organization which will receive all assets and materials of the inactive Friends.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## PANDEMIC

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### Background

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The purpose of this policy is to establish the protocol that will be used in the event of a pandemic. If there is a serious infectious disease outbreak, the library must plan for staff being unable to work. In addition, other public health measures may be required to help slow the spread of the illness including closing down by order of local public health officials. Other public health measures may include limiting or canceling social and public gatherings, requiring quarantines and/or other social distancing measures.

Pandemic plan differs from a general emergency preparedness policy or procedure. With an emergency preparedness policy, there is an assumption that staff will return to the building, or begin rebuilding, almost immediately after the event or crisis. If there is a serious infectious disease outbreak, recovery may be slow and limited staff, services, and hours may be necessary for several weeks or more.

### Health and Safety

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The library will abide by all recommendations for health and safety as issued by the Ulster County Health Commission, New York State, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If these recommendations apply to patron behavior, the library will post the recommendations at the library main entrance.

### Library Closure/Curtailed Hours

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#### Closure

The West Hurley Public Library will close due to a pandemic in the event a mandate order or recommendation for closure is issued by public health or government officials on the local, county, or state level. If any of these rules apply to patron behavior, the library may post these at the library's main entrance.

If the Onteora School District School closes due to pandemic illness, the West Hurley Public Library will remain open unless one of the aforementioned requirements for closing are also met. However, all library programs and special events will be canceled on any day in which Onteora School District closes due to pandemic-related illness.

Curtailed Hours: The library will follow mandates by public health or government officials on the local, county, or state level. The library may need to shorten hours depending upon these mandates and additional pandemic related duties. If shortened hours are required, the library director will make a recommendation to the library board for approval.

Story Times and Programs: Story times and programming will continue as library hours and staffing permit.

### Staffing

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If the library is open, healthy staff are expected to report to work. In the event of curtailed hours, staff who work will be paid for their regularly scheduled hours.

At the discretion of the Library Board President or other board officer, the West Hurley Public Library may close, reduce its operating hours, or limit services temporarily (e.g. programming) in the event that there is not sufficient staff to maintain basic library service levels.

### Critical Administrative Tasks

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The bookkeeper will handle payroll during a pandemic to pay staff. The Director will sign off on the payroll summary.

### Library Bills

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If necessary, re-occurring vendors will be paid online. In event the library director is unavailable, a member of the finance committee may be appointed to submit invoices to the board.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: October 20, 2021

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### Goals

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The public relations goals of the library are:

- To promote community awareness and active participation in library services and programs
- To develop public understanding and support of the library and its role in the community

### Media Contact

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The West Hurley Library selects a newspaper of record annually. The Library Director or Library Board must approve all content given to the media. Information is not to be given to the media by an employee other than the Library Director. In the event the media makes contact, the employee should request the name, phone number, and organization represented and inform the Library Director who will take the appropriate action.

### Photography

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From time to time, activities at the West Hurley Public Library may be photographed, recorded, or videotaped for archival or promotional use. Such use may include but is not limited to library newsletters, displays, annual reports, promotional brochures, library website, archive, and promotional videotapes, and for release to the local media. Written permission will be requested when an individual's face is recognizable.

Any persons filming or photographing on library premises have sole responsibility for gaining all necessary releases and permissions from persons who are filmed or photographed. The Library undertakes no responsibility for obtaining these releases. Also note that library staff may terminate any photo session that appears to compromise public safety or security.

### Social Media

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To provide free, open, and convenient access to our community, we participate in social software public forums. These are defined as any web application, site or account created and maintained by the West Hurley Public Library.

A member of the library staff will be designated to ensure that social media content complies with library policy. Library staff reserves the right to remove or modify any comments that are unlawful, inappropriate, or off-topic for the library community. Comments containing the following will be removed by library staff:

- Potentially libelous comments
- Obscene, sexually explicit, or racist comments
- Personal attacks, insults, or threatening language
- Private personal information published without consent
- Off topic comments or hyperlinks
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Copyright violations
- Comments unrelated to the topic of the forum

By posting content, the user agrees to indemnify the West Hurley Library and its officers and employees from and against all liabilities, judgments, damages, and costs (including attorney's fees) incurred by any of them which arise out of or are related to the content that you post. Forums and messaging may not be used for commercial purposes or for organized political activity.

If you do not agree to these terms, do not use the service, as violation of these terms can lead to legal liability.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 10, 2021

## RECORDS RETENTION

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The records of the West Hurley Public Library will be retained and disposed of in accordance with the schedules published in Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MU-1 by the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department and the Records Retention Schedule of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. These current schedules are attached.

The Library Director shall serve as the Records Management Officer for the Library to ensure compliance with the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MU-1 and the National Council of Nonprofit Associations Record Retention Schedule.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: May 19, 2021

## SUSTAINABILITY

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The West Hurley Public Library is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels of our organization. Our goal is to minimize our organization's impact and maximize future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. We will strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, and buy environmentally friendly products.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: September 21, 2022

## VOLUNTEERS

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The Library Board encourages individuals and groups to volunteer their time and efforts in the service of the West Hurley Public Library. In appreciation of volunteer services, the Library acknowledges the need to organize volunteer activities and provide for appropriate recognition befitting the benefit to the library and the community it serves.

Library volunteers are coordinated by the Director, or designee, and must be at least 15 years of age unless supervised by an adult volunteer. Each volunteer is encouraged to complete the "Library Volunteer Interest Form". Forms are available on the website.

Library volunteers are bound by the rules contained in all Library policies and guidelines, especially those that relate to patron privacy and confidentiality. Library volunteers are recognized by the public as representatives of the Library and will be guided by the same work and behavior policies as employees.

Volunteers work with the status of "at will" employees and the Library has the right to terminate the volunteer's working association with the Library at any time, for any reason. Volunteers working in the Library are covered by Library's Property and Liability Insurance policy.

Junior volunteers under the age of eighteen required to perform service for specific programs are accepted on a short-term basis. Parents/guardians of junior volunteers must sign a consent form for the children to perform volunteer service hours at the Library.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## BOARD

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### CODE OF ETHICS

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#### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the West Hurley Public Library and the individual trustees to ensure that the West Hurley Public Library provides quality library service to the residents of the communities we serve. The Code of Ethics, which follows, represents our commitment to the ethical standards for our library. Failure to adhere to this Code of Ethics by any individual trustee may result in removal from the board.

#### ETHICAL GUIDELINES

- The management of the library is the responsibility of the library director. It is the director's mission to select books and other library materials, employ the staff and supervise day-to-day operations. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to set policies for library operations while maintaining its fiscal responsibilities to the taxpayers of the library district
- Trustees in the capacity of trust upon them, shall observe ethical standards with absolute truth, integrity, and honor.
- Trustees must distinguish clearly between their personal attitudes and philosophies and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the board even if they personally disagree. After a policy or rule is adopted by a majority of the library board, individual trustees should publicly support those decisions.
- 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. Negotiations of contracts are in the purview of the assigned board committee/representative.
- Trustees must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the situation.
- It is incumbent upon any trustee to recuse himself or herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interests exists.
- Trustees must make decisions in the best interest of residents in all parts of the West Hurley Library Special District's chartered service area. No preference will be given to any town or group of people.
- Trustees must be prepared to support the fullest efforts of librarians in resisting the censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.
- Trustees who accept library board membership are expected to perform all the functions of library trustees. If a trustee is unable to attend meetings regularly and complete work delegated to him or her, the trustee should resign so that an active member can be appointed.
- Trustees will receive no compensation as a Board Member.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021



## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to protect the interest of the Library when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of one of its officers, directors or staff. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable federal, state or local laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

Actual, potential and/or perceived conflicts of interest shall be reported in writing as soon as they arise. Any such report shall be forwarded to the Library Director for official presentation to the Board of Trustees who shall attempt to resolve any action or potential conflict and shall respond in writing to the individual.

The individual in conflict shall absent him/herself from the room during any discussion or deliberations related to the issue and shall refrain from participating in decision-making in connection with the matter. The individual's presence at the meeting shall not be counted in determining whether there exists a quorum.

Board members and their immediate family members (as defined below) shall be excluded from consideration for employment by the Library. Relatives of persons currently employed by the Library may be hired only if they will not be working directly for or supervising a relative.

Immediate family includes the following: spouses, life partners, parents, children, siblings, in-laws, grandparents and grandchildren, and step relationships. This policy also applies to individuals who are not legally related but who reside with a board member in a familial relationship rather than a roommate relationship.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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The Library encourages each library trustee to take advantage of training opportunities for trustees offered by the public library system or statewide agencies and organizations. Likewise, the Library encourages trustees to be active in the state library organization and its efforts to inform the governor and legislature of the benefits and needs of public libraries.

A specified amount will be allocated in the Library's budget each year for trustee education and travel expenses.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## CIRCULATION

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### LAW ENFORCEMENT

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The West Hurley Public Library recognizes and strives to follow the practices of the American Library Association Code of Ethics, Article III, "We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted," to the fullest extent of our abilities. The Library also supports the rights and privacy of our patrons with "Civil Practice Laws and Rules Section 4509 Library Records." [See Confidentiality of Library Records Policy]

The Library Director has been designated as the person responsible for handling law enforcement requests. **All Library staff should understand that it is lawful to refer the agent or officer to an administrator in charge of the Library, and that they do not need to respond immediately to any request.** Staff should call the Director or the Board President if appropriate.

#### During a visit:

1. If anyone approaches a staff member alleging to be a law enforcement official requesting information, DO NOT DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION.
2. Ask for identification and then immediately refer the agent or officer to the library Director. If she/he is not available, the Board President or the Board Vice President should be contacted. Photocopy identification or take business card.
3. Director or other officer will meet with the agent and ask to see the court order(s) (for example, search warrant, subpoena, National Security Letter) authorizing law enforcement.
4. If the agent or officer does not have a court order compelling the production of records, the director or officer should explain the Library's confidentiality policy and/or the state's confidentiality law (NYS 4509) and inform the agent or officer that users' records are not available except when a proper court order in good form has been presented to the Library.
5. If there is no court order presented the FBI and /or local law enforcement has no authority to compel cooperation with an investigation or require answers to questions (other than the name and address of the person speaking to him/her). If the agent or officer makes an appeal to patriotism, the Director will explain that, as good citizens, the Library staff will not respond to informal requests for confidential information, in conformity with professional ethics, First Amendment freedoms and state law.
6. If the agent or officer does present a court order the Director should immediately refer the court order to the Library's legal counsel for review.

West Hurley Public Library Legal Counsel:  
Mainetti, Mainetti & O'Connor, PC  
303 Clinton Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401  
Tel: 845-331-9434

#### If the court order is in the form of a subpoena:

- Counsel will examine the subpoena for any legal defect including the manner in which it was served on the library, the breadth of its request, its form, or an insufficient showing of good cause made to a court. If a defect exists, counsel will advise on the best method to resist the subpoena.
- Through legal counsel the Director will insist that any defect be cured before records are released and that the subpoena is strictly limited to require release of specifically identified records or documents.
- The Attorney or Director will require that the agent, officer, or party requesting the information submit a new subpoena in good form and without defects.
- The Attorney and Director will review the information that may be produced in response to the subpoena before releasing the information. They will follow the subpoena strictly and will not provide any information that is not specifically requested in it.
- If disclosure is required, the Library's Attorney will draft a request to the court to enter a protective order keeping the information confidential and limiting its use to the particular case. The document will ask that access be restricted to those persons working directly on the case.

#### If the court order is in the form of a search warrant:

- Search warrants are executable immediately. However, ask to have Library counsel present before the search begins to allow counsel to examine the warrant and assure that the search conforms to the terms of the warrant. This request may not be granted.

- Gather records identified in the warrant and present them rather than allowing non-library personnel to go through the Library's databases or records.

**If the court order is a search warrant issued under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) (USA PATRIOT ACT amendment):**

- The recommendations for a regular search warrant still apply. However, a search warrant issued by a FISA court also contains a "gag order." That means that no person or institution served with the warrant can disclose that the warrant has been served or that records have been produced pursuant to the warrant
- The Library and its staff must comply with this order. No information can be disclosed to any other party, including the Director if not present at the time warrant is served and the patron whose records are the subject of the search warrant.
- The gag order does not change a library's right to legal representation during the search. The Library can still seek legal advice concerning the warrant and request that the Library's legal counsel be present during the actual search and execution of the warrant.

**If the court order is a National Security Letter:**

The procedure is the same as for a search warrant. However, a gag order applies. The Director will contact Library counsel. If the Director is not available, contact the Board President or Board Vice President. She/he may request that the Library's legal counsel be present during the search and that the search be delayed until counsel examines the court document. If law enforcement chooses to proceed, the Library must comply.

The Board recognizes that it is only through continued public confidence in the fact that these guidelines are being upheld that the public can maintain its confidence in the West Hurley Public Library.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## LENDING RULES/PROCEDURES

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1. All materials may circulate to borrowers in good standing for 21 days with the following exceptions:
  - a. Encyclopedias, Indexes and other Reference works marked "REF" do not circulate
  - b. Materials marked "Not to Circulate"
  - c. Items in the Local History Collection do not circulate
  - d. Newspapers do not circulate
  - e. New DVDs circulate for 14 days
  - f. Gaming materials circulate for 14 days
  - g. Equipment circulates for 14 days
  - h. Patrons must be 18 or older and have had a library card for 6 months to borrow equipment
2. Renewals: Items that are not reserved by another party may be renewed twice. Items that are reserved by another party may not be renewed.
3. Returns: West Hurley Public Library materials may be returned at any library in the Mid-Hudson Library System. Equipment and museum passes must be returned to the West Hurley Public Library circulation desk.
4. Reserves: Patrons may sign up to place items on reserve to ensure that they receive them when the items are returned to the library. These items will only be held on reserve for one week.
5. Delinquency: After a patron owes more than ten dollars' worth of fines or overdue/lost materials, his/her library privileges are revoked in the West Hurley Public Library and in the Mid-Hudson Library System. The system, neighboring libraries, and staff shall be notified.
6. Loss and Damage:
  - a. It is the borrower's responsibility to check the condition/contents of all materials upon checkout. Borrowers are responsible for returning all materials in their entirety in the same condition as when they checked the items out.
  - b. Borrowers who lose library materials or return them damaged beyond use or repair are required to pay the cost of replacement. Books or DVDs may be replaced with an exact copy. (If the book is out of print, the user will be charged the cost to replace the book with another on the same subject and approximate value.) Borrowers who lose equipment are responsible for the cost of the equipment and/or any missing parts.
  - c. Patrons are responsible for damage if the damage occurs while they are using materials in the library.
  - d. If the library is unable to locate a West Hurley Public Library material that a patron claims that they have returned, the library will change the book's status to "claims returned," and the patron will not have to pay to replace the item. After a patron accrues three outstanding "claims returned" from any library in the Mid-Hudson Library System, he/she may not use this alternative. Any item over fifty dollars is the borrower's responsibility (claims returned does not apply to these items.)

Amended by the Board of Trustees: September 22, 2021

## LIBRARY CARDS

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1. Two types of library cards are issued by the West Hurley Public Library
  - a. Full Access: this card enables the patron to have full borrowing privileges to physical and digital items
  - b. Digital Card: patrons will be able to apply and obtain these from the library website. These cards will be valid for three months and will only be eligible to use with certain online resources.
2. Full Access library cards will be issued with the following conditions:
  - a. A person does not already have a library card in the Mid-Hudson Library System
  - b. A person must provide this information:
    - Full name
    - Mailing address
    - Street address (if different than mailing address)
    - Phone Number(s)
    - Signature
    - Date of signature
    - Children under the age of 18 must have a responsible adult sign their registration form to indicate that the adult will be legally responsible for the child's fines and bills
    - Children under the age of five may not apply for a library card
    - Gender
    - Proof of residence
    - Birth date
  - c. A patron must show identification with a current residential address. Identification with only a post office box number or with a motel address may not be sufficient. The following are considered acceptable proofs of identification:
    - a valid state driver's license or identification card issued by a state motor vehicle division with current residential address; or,
    - a valid temporary driver's license with current residential address; or,
    - imprinted checks with current residential address; or,
    - canceled mail postmarked within the last week; or,
    - telephone, utility, rent, lease agreement, or tax billIdentification need not be provided in person. It can also be supplied via email or text to the library.
3. *Patrons must pay a two dollar replacement fee for lost cards.*
4. *All library cards expire after 3 years. In order to renew a library card, patrons must produce identification and clear all outstanding fines and bills.*
5. *Applicants who don't reside permanently in the Mid-Hudson System are subject to the following restrictions.*
  - e. *An applicant must provide the information outlined in the beginning of this policy*
  - f. *An applicant must pay an annual fee of fifty dollars*

Revised by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## MUSEUM PASS

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The West Hurley Library is pleased to offer our community participation in a program entitling them to free entrance to several area museums. In order to insure fair and equitable access to these passes, the Library has established the following guidelines.

Museum passes may be borrowed by Mid-Hudson Library System cardholders who are 18 years of age or over and be in good standing (owe no more than ten dollars for fines or lost materials.)

Museum passes are available on a walk-in, first-come, first-served basis. They cannot be reserved. Only one museum pass may be borrowed at a time by a household.

In order to borrow a museum pass, a patron must present their library card at the Circulation Desk. The museum pass and pouch will then be checked out to the patron.

Museum passes are available for a three-day loan period. Passes must be returned on or before the fourth day.

Pass and pouch must be returned in person to the Circulation Desk at the West Hurley Public Library only before closing on the due date. Do not return museum passes in the book drop. Museum passes may not be renewed, and patrons must return one pass before borrowing another.

An overdue fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per day will be charged for museum passes that are not returned by their due date. A pass not returned within seven days after the due date will be considered lost. Borrowers who lose museum passes will be charged the current fine or pay the full replacement cost, whichever is greater.

The Library reserves the right to deny the use of museum passes to any borrower who repeatedly loses them or returns them late or to give other families a chance to use the museum passes.

Each museum determines the rules and regulations governing the use of its museum pass. We strongly recommend that you call or visit the destination's website to confirm their policies and hours prior to your visit. Passes typically exclude special exhibits or events. The Library assumes no responsibility of any kinds arising from the terms of a museum pass.

The Director has discretion to make changes to the lending rules of the museum pass.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## PATRON CONFIDENTIALITY

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The West Hurley Public Library supports and complies with New York State Law (New York State Civil Practice Law & Rules 4508, Chapter 112, Laws of 1988) with respect to the confidentiality of library records.

### **New York State Civil Practice Law & Rules Section 4509**

*Library records, which contain names or other personally identifying details regarding the users of public, free association, school, college and university libraries and library systems of this state, including but not limited to records relating to the circulation of library materials, computer database searches, interlibrary loan transactions, reference queries, requests for photocopies of library materials, title reserve requests, or the use of audio-visual materials, films or records, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except that such records may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of the library and shall be disclosed upon request or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order or where otherwise required by statute.*

Patrons have control over their library cards. Presentation of a valid library card will allow the patron whose name appears on the card (or the parent/legal guardian in the case of a minor child) access to information about the current circulation record of the patron. A person presenting the library card of a friend or family member may check out items on that card with authorization from the cardholder. However, no information from that library record may be given by library staff to a third party.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

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### Selection of Materials

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Library materials are selected and acquired by the Library Director within the parameters of the library budget and mission. Materials are selected for all age groups. Special requests for titles or materials must be made to the Library Director. Print, audio, audio-visual, and electronic formats are included in the collection, budget and space permitting.

The library adheres to the principles contained in the American Library Association Bill of Rights and the American Library Association statement(s) on the “Freedom to Read” and the “Freedom to View.” Copies of the three ALA documents are filed with this policy.

Responsibility for the reading, listening, and viewing of Library materials by children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection will not be inhibited by the possibility that materials may inadvertently come into the possession of children.

### Challenge of Library Materials

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The library does not censor the content of library materials. Patrons objecting to the inclusion of materials they find objectionable can complete a “Challenge of Materials Form” (addendum to this document) and submit it for consideration by the Library Director and Board of Trustees. Once a decision has been reached, the Library will follow the steps outlined in the Patron Complaint Policy.

### Local History

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The purpose of the Library Collection is to preserve materials that document the history of West Hurley, and to make these materials available to researchers, exhibition and the general public. The library holds these materials in trust for future generations, and therefore, for preservation reasons, materials can only be used in the library.

Donations will be accepted only if the Library believes it can make good use of the material. The West Hurley Public Library reserves the right to dispose of materials inappropriate to our collections. Options include returning materials to donors, selling items, and offering collections to other institutions. The Library may enter into cooperative arrangements with other organizations in order to preserve historical materials and/or make them more widely available.

### Weeding

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Staff needs to evaluate the collection regularly to determine what items should remain in the collection. This helps to ensure that the collection is relevant and meets the community’s needs and provides an appealing and up-to-date selection of materials. Before being discarded, each item will be reviewed by the Library Director. All items shall be marked as discarded and whenever possible will be recycled or donated to the Library Friends’ Group or other nonprofit organizations.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019



## FINANCE

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### CREDIT CARDS

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Bank credit cards will be established in the name of the West Hurley Public Library and the specific name of an individual with a maximum credit limit for each set by the Library Board. All monthly bank statements and correspondence will be sent to the Library District. Bank credit cards will be used primarily for work related travel expenses, for time sensitive utility bills, and pre-payment of materials when required by a vendor.

Bank credit cards will be issued to the Library Director.

Upon receipt of original itemized documentation and a voucher, credit card expenditures will be paid by check through the Treasurer after approval by the Board.

Expenses may be incurred with the credit card only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. Expenditures must be within the guidelines of the particular activity of the approved budget. This card is not to be used for any personal expenses.
2. Purchases may not exceed the Library's credit limit. There are no exceptions.
3. Proper documentation to support the expenditure must be submitted prior to the receipt of the monthly statement. Exceptions must be approved by an officer of the board.

Proper documentation is to include:

- Original itemized paid receipt indicating the amount paid, to the vendor, and the itemized description of the purchase.
- In the case of books, subscriptions or similar types of orders, a copy of the order form or document.
- A hardcopy print-out of the items ordered on-line.

Examples of documentation not allowed:

- Non-itemized cash register receipts.
- Handwritten requests for reimbursement without receipts or other verification.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

### DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

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Surplus property is defined as any personal or real property owned by the Library that is no longer needed for the provision of library services. Only property having more than a nominal monetary value need be formally declared surplus. Property that is obsolete, broken, has no useful purpose, and is of nominal value may be disposed of with the approval of the Library Director by the most appropriate and cost-effective method. Surplus items that could neither be sold nor donated will be turned over for recycling if possible and economically feasible. The donation of surplus equipment to other local educational, charitable, social services, or to smaller library systems is encouraged. The Library Director is authorized to approve such donations on a case-by-case basis.

The board shall approve the disposal of all furniture, fixtures, and equipment with a value of more than \$1000 per item.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021

## FINANCIAL CONTROLS

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Financial controls/procedures are required as part of the Board's fiduciary responsibility.

### Cash Handling

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The establishment of strong internal controls for cash collections is necessary to prevent mishandling of funds and to safeguard against loss. Strong internal controls are also designed to protect employees from inappropriate charges of mishandling funds by defining their responsibilities in the cash handling process. Included in the definition of cash are the following: coin, currency, checks, money orders, and credit cards. Cash handling procedures are laid out in the Finance Committee Procedures Document.

### Claims Audit Process

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The goal of the Claims Audit Process is to present and approve all bills in a timely manner while preventing fraud. This process is laid out in the Finance Committee Procedures Document.

### Funds Management

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Proper Funds Management details how money is moved between accounts and deposited, the checks/balances used to verify monies have been properly handled, and how financial institutions are selected. These processes are laid out in the Finance Committee Procedures Document.

### Financial Review

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A financial review will be performed annually. If an outside agency is not hired, a committee of the board will work with the bookkeeper to perform an internal audit.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## GIFTS

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1. Gifts of library materials (books, audio recordings, videos, etc.) will be accepted with the understanding that the library reserves the right to add them to its collection, redistribute them, sell them, or discard them. Gift materials will be added to the collection in accordance with the Collection Policy of the library.
2. Monetary gifts, bequests, and memorial or honorary contributions are welcome. If donated funds are used to purchase library materials, then these items will be chosen in accordance with the Collection Policy of the Library.
3. Gifts of personal property, art objects, antiques, and other collectibles will be accepted with the understanding that they may be displayed, sold, given away, or discarded at the discretion of the Library Board.
4. The library keeps no record of the final disposition of these gifts, nor will the Library appraise any of these gifts.
5. Gift items will be formally acknowledged if the donor wishes.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## INVENTORY AND FIXED ASSETS

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Staff will keep an inventory of computer equipment current and review it annually. Serial numbers will be recorded for all controlled equipment. Equipment records should contain descriptions, quantities, locations, dates of purchase and original cost. Where serial numbers don't exist, equipment will be marked as property of the Library. Disposal of equipment shall be noted in the inventory for that year. A member of the technology committee will review the hardware inventory on a yearly basis. He/she shall compare the physical hardware to the prior year's inventory.

Examples of controlled equipment:

- Projectors
- Computers: desktop CPUs or portable laptops
- Monitors
- Battery backups
- Tablets

Examples of noncontrolled equipment:

- Equipment valued at less than one hundred dollars
- Software
- Cameras
- Smartphones
- Stereo systems
- Computer related equipment, not CPUs or laptops
- Hard drives

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## INVESTMENTS

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All investment policies and procedures of the West Hurley Public Library will be in accordance with New York State law regarding public libraries. The Library is subject to the requirements of the General Municipal Law and the applicable Banking Law. Under the current version of these laws, the Library can only use commercial banks that are chartered to do business in New York State. Administration and execution of these policies are the responsibility of the Treasurer, and, by designation, the Library Director acting under the authority of the Library Board of Library Trustees. Investments, fund balances, and the status of such accounts will be reported at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Library Board.

### Objectives

In selecting financial institutions and investment instruments to be used, the following general objectives should be considered:

- Safety
- Maintenance of sufficient liquidity to meet current obligations
- Return on investment
- Simplicity of management

### Guidelines

The following guidelines should be used to meet the general investment objectives:

1. Safety
  - a. Municipal Law requires that deposit accounts in banks must either be FDIC insured, \$250,000; or for amounts above the FDIC limit, deposits can be collateralized. Banks will provide municipal accounts to collateralize deposits. In general, municipal accounts will not provide the best rates of return; it is therefore the policy of the West Hurley Library to disburse funds among more than one bank so that all deposits are fully FDIC insured.
  - b. Authorized investments include and will primarily consist of: Certificates of Deposit, Treasury Bills and other securities guaranteed by the U.S. Government, and any other investments allowed under State law that satisfy the investment objectives of the library district.
2. Maintenance of sufficient liquidity to meet current obligations, reserve requirements.
  - a. In general, investments should be managed to meet liquidity needs for two months (based on forecasted needs). However, the Library Tax collected by the Town is provided in early March. Therefore, the reserve required at the end of the Library fiscal year, December 31, is four months of normal expense.
3. Return on investment:
  - a. Within the constraints of NYS law and this investment policy, every effort should be made to maximize return on investments made. All available funds will be placed in investments or kept in interest bearing deposit accounts at all times.
4. Simplicity of management:
  - a. The time required by library administrative staff to manage investments shall be kept to a minimum.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## ONLINE BANKING

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The West Hurley Library has entered into a written agreement with the Bank(s) of Record for online banking services. Unique ID's and passwords are individually secured.

The procedure for reviewing accounts and allowing access to these accounts is laid out in the Finance Committee Procedures Document.

All deposit accounts are held at the Bank(s) of Record. Internal account transfers, stopping payment on a check, and printing/viewing statements are authorized activities. Wire transfers and electronic payments are not allowed, except for debits in the following instance:

- The payroll vendor of record may debit from the check account the amount of payroll, payroll taxes, and the payroll service fee per the submitted payroll file.
- NYS Employment Taxes, IRS Payroll Taxes, and NYS Retirement System.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## PETTY CASH

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The purpose of a petty cash fund is to allow for the reimbursement of minor business expenses in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The use of petty cash funds should be limited to reimbursement of faculty, staff, and visitors for small expenses, not to exceed \$200. The Library Director is the custodian of the fund. Expenditures must be within the guidelines of the particular activity of the approved budget.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

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501(c)3 organizations are restricted by IRS regulations from making financial contributions to candidates.

While libraries as institutions must remain neutral, library supporters are not expected to be neutral. Trustees and library staff may contribute to individual political candidates and parties.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## PURCHASING

With the understanding that purchases for library materials are often available through statewide or national discount programs for libraries, the Board of Trustees establishes the following policy:

1. *Library Materials: Books, magazines, AV, and other such materials intended for patron use are generally purchased from vendors offering volume discounts or vendors offering a state contract. Materials available only from the publisher are generally purchased with little or no discount.*
2. *Capital and One-Time Purchases: The following schedule is related to capital or one-time purchases on non-library materials where individual items are at the stated prices and for which there are sufficient budget appropriations.*

Purchase Amount	Policy
Up to \$1000	Discretion of the Executive Director
\$1000 - \$2,999	Minimum of three verbal quotes documented by a library representative and approved by both the Treasurer and the President prior to purchase and reported to the Board of Trustees
\$3,000 - \$19,999	Minimum of three written quotes approved by the Board of Trustees
\$20,000 or more	Formal bid process approved by the Board of Trustees

3. *Ongoing Expenditures: The following schedule applies to purchases where anticipated yearly expenditures for items are known to exceed the following thresholds in any of the prior three years.*

Purchases	Public Works	Policy
Up to \$2,999	Up to \$3,999	Discretion of the Executive Director
\$3,000 - \$4,999	\$4,000 - \$5,999	Minimum of three verbal quotes or a reasonable alternative documented by a library representative and approved by both the Treasurer and the President prior to purchase and reported to the Board of Trustees.
\$5,001 - \$9,999	\$6,001 - \$9,999	Minimum of three written quotes or a reasonable documented alternative approved by the Board of Trustees
\$10,000 or more	\$10,000 or more	Formal bid process approved by the Board of Trustees

4. *The Library District will comply with all New York State requirements for public works projects.*
5. *Emergencies: In the event of an emergency over \$1,000, the Executive Director will obtain three verbal quotes if possible. Either the Treasurer or the President will approve the expense.*

Revised by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE

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The West Hurley Library encourages its employees to take advantage of local and regional professional development opportunities.

Staff members should use the follow guidelines:

1. Attendance at workshops, meetings, courses, and conferences, when pertinent to the requestor's job duties or professional development, will be considered as scheduled hours worked.
2. All receipts for expenditures should be submitted with a voucher to the Board of Trustees.
3. Staff should take advantage of early registration, conference room rates, and any other discounts associated with their travel whenever possible.
4. The library will reimburse mileage at the IRS Standard Mileage Rate. When two or more staff travel together, only one will be reimbursed for the mileage allowance.
5. When submitting for mileage reimbursement, the requestor should provide a copy of the travel directions. The directions must include the address of the training as a destination as measured from the West Hurley Public Library.
6. When required, staff members must make airline, bus or train reservations using the Library's credit card under the guidelines of the Library's Credit Card Policy. Reservations should be made for economy class.
7. The Library will pay for the cost of lodging within a reasonable level. Staff members must make lodging reservations using the Library's credit card under the guidelines of the Library's Credit Card Policy. When two staff members attend the same event, staff are required to share lodging unless a justifiable reason prevents it.
8. Exercise facilities, movies, or other forms of entertainment are not reimbursable Library travel expenses.
9. Unless included in the cost of the conference registration fee, meals will only be covered for regional or national conferences.
10. Reasonable and necessary costs for automobile parking will be reimbursed when there are no other practical options available. Requestors must present a receipt or copy of their credit card statement that indicates the parking fees to be reimbursed.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## PUBLIC SPACE

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### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

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The Library complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336 (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA, as applied to cities, counties, and other local governmental entities, requires that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of a disability, be denied the benefits of local government services, programs, or activities.

The Library offers the same services to patrons with disabilities as to all other segments of the population. In addition to those services, the West Hurley Public Library acts as facilitator between the patron and the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library and welcomes service animals in the library.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: September 21, 2022

### ENVIRONMENTAL

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The West Hurley Public Library continues to reduce its environmental footprint. We shall comply with all applicable legal requirements which relate to the environment. Whenever possible, operations are managed in an environmentally sensitive manner by utilizing energy saving measures, minimizing waste, protecting habitat, and supporting renewable energy products. The library will emphasize conservation through recycling and the use of environmentally friendly products.

Created by the Board of Trustees: January 20, 2021



## MEETING ROOM AND GENERAL LIBRARY SPACE

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Library events take priority over individual usage.

Library-sponsored programs may include partnerships with outside agencies. These are activities initiated by Library staff. These do not require permission of the Board of Trustees.

The Library restricts use of the Meeting Room to community groups or for educational programming. Use of the room for religious or political activities is not permitted. Requests to use the Meeting Room must be made in writing to the Director at least one month prior to the activity. Should the Director have concerns about the appropriateness of the request, the Director will consult with the president of the Board. Community groups that are not library sponsored must provide proof of liability insurance.

Please be aware that the following restrictions apply before requesting permission:

- The Meeting Room may be reserved no more than ninety days in advance. It is understood that Library programming will have first priority in room use. The Library reserves the right to cancel any reservation of the Meeting Room.
- No admission may be charged by any group using the Meeting Room
- In general, there is no charge for using the Meeting Room. However, any additional staff time needed to support a meeting may be recovered from the group holding the meeting.
- The fact that a group is permitted to meet at the Library does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the group or its programs.
- Refreshments may be served and shall be provided by the group. The group using the Meeting Room is responsible for leaving it neat, clean and in an orderly condition. Any offense may result in denied access for future group or individual meetings. The registrant is responsible for damages to Library equipment, furniture, or facilities during the meeting and will pay for any damages.
- The Library is not responsible for any equipment, supplies, materials, clothing or other items brought to the Library by any group or individual attending a meeting.
- Activity and noise levels in the Meeting Room during meetings must not disrupt or disturb regular library activities.
- Users of the Meeting Room must abide by all local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, and regulations, including occupancy limits.
- The registrant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Library and all its officers, employees, and agents from any and all claims, demands, suits, causes of action or judgments, any person may have as a result of any damages suffered while utilizing the Meeting Room.
- Any violation of these rules and regulations may result in an order to vacate the premises immediately and/or suspension of the privilege of using the Meeting Room.

Use of general library space is subject to the same rules as the meeting room.

Use of the Meeting Room is subject to the Tutoring Policy. Users of the Meeting Room are expected to abide by the Library's Patron Code of Conduct and Unattended Child Policies.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

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To ensure constructive use of Library facilities, materials, and services, as well as the personal comfort of all patrons, the Board of Trustees has established the following rules for use:

1. *Smoking is not permitted within 100 feet of any library building or entrance.*
2. *Foul language, loud and boisterous behaviors are not permitted.*
3. *Harassment of Library patrons or staff is not permitted. This includes touching, speaking, acting in a menacing way, or intruding in another's space.*

Violators of rules 1, 2 or 3 may lose library privileges temporarily. Egregious violations will result in permanent loss of all library privileges.

4. *A library patron who deliberately alters or destroys computer equipment or software will be subject to financial liability for damages.*
5. *A library patron who vandalizes, steals, or destroys any library equipment or building components will be subject to financial liability for damages.*

Violators of rules 3 or 4 will forfeit all library privileges. If the conditions warrant, library staff will contact law enforcement.

6. *Offensive body odor due to poor personal hygiene, overpowering perfume, or cologne will result in the patron being asked to leave the library until the offending issue is corrected.*
7. *Food and drink are allowed in the library when offered by the library as refreshments served at a program or at the discretion of library staff.*
8. *Footwear and appropriate clothing are required of all patrons.*
9. *Only animals assisting the disabled are permitted in the building.*

If a patron observes inappropriate behavior, he or she should refer it to the Library staff.

Under the terms of this policy, library staff may ask patrons to leave for the day if the patron does not follow these rules.

Staff should document any significant incident of patron misconduct and report it to the Director, who will bring it to the Executive Board at his/her discretion. Only the Officers and Director of the Library can administer long-term expulsion from the West Hurley Public Library.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: June 19, 2019

## PATRON COMPLAINT

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A Library patron initially may choose to raise his or her complaint on an informal, verbal basis with the Library's staff. If the patron elects not to do so, or that the complaint proves not susceptible to informal resolution, the patron should complete a "Patron Complaint Form" (addendum to this document) and submit it. The Library Director will review promptly all complaint forms, and where appropriate, attempt to resolve the complaint directly.

If the patron is not satisfied with the response provided, and/or if the Director identifies the situation as one in which Board input is warranted, either or both parties may bring the written complaint to the attention of the Board of Trustees. Patrons desiring to do so may also request an opportunity to address the Board at one of its monthly meetings.

The Board will promptly review all complaints presented to it, provide a written response to the complainant, and take any further remedial action warranted by the particular circumstances.

The decision of the Board of Trustees with respect to a complaint shall be final.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## POSTING MATERIALS

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The library maintains a physical bulletin board which provides organizations an opportunity to publicize community events of a civic, cultural, educational or recreational nature. To avoid the appearance of an endorsement, the library will not post notices of partisan political, religious or commercial events or activities.

See the Public Relations/Social Media Policy for items relating to posting to social media forums.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: May 17, 2021

## PROGRAMMING

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Programs will provide additional opportunities for information, learning, community engagement and enrichment. The Library does not allow programming that is solely for commercial, religious, or political purposes. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or views expressed at the program.

Libraries may partner with other agencies and organizations to present programs. Any sales of products (i.e. books or CDs) at the Library programs must be approved by the Library.

The library director is responsible for programming. The Library welcomes opinions from customers regarding programming. If a patron has a concern or question with a program, they follow the procedure outlined in the Patron Complaint Policy.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## TUTORING

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To ensure the Library premises are available for use by its patrons in furthering their educational needs the Library permits private tutoring on a paid or volunteer basis. The Director has final discretion as to whether the activity is tutoring and permissible under this policy.

Reservations of the Meeting Room will be permitted for tutoring students K-12 and for literacy activities. Maximum limits of students per tutor will be set by the director in consultation with the tutor. The Director has final discretion as to whether the tutor is reserving excessive time to the detriment of others who may wish to reserve the meeting room.

There is no limitation to individual tutoring in other areas of the library without a reservation. Conversations or instruction should not be loud enough to distract other library users.

The Library is not to be used as a classroom or office space but as a quiet and safe workspace for students to receive instruction. Tutors may not publish or distribute advertisements or letters identifying the Library as their place of doing business or imply Library sponsorship of their activities.

The Library does not sponsor, recommend or assume liability or responsibility for the work and/or activities of the tutor and all arrangements must be made between the student and the tutor. The tutor is responsible for establishing communication protocols for their students and their parents. Library staff will not make or cancel appointments between student and tutors nor relay messages on their behalf.

Tutors and students must bring their own supplies.

Tutors and students are expected to abide by the Library's Patron Code of Conduct and Unattended Child Policies. Children under the age of 18 who are tutored in the Library are the responsibility of the tutor while on library property until they are released to someone providing authorized transportation or leave the library on their own.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## UNATTENDED CHILD

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1. Children under the age of 7 may not be left unattended at the Library. They must be accompanied by a person 13 years of age or older.
2. Children ages 8-17 who behave in accordance with the patron conduct policy may remain in the library without the accompaniment of an adult. Parents/guardians will still be responsible for their behavior and will be contacted if behavior is inappropriate.
3. Parents whose children are under the age of 7 who attend library programs are required to remain in the Library. Parents must recognize that due to unexpected circumstances, programs may end before or after the posted time. Children attending programs can be supervised by library staff only during the program.
4. Closing Time Procedure:
  - a. *Children requiring transportation must be picked up before closing time.*
  - b. *If parents have been contacted and are "ON THE WAY", staff will remain with the child up to fifteen minutes after closing time. At the staff's discretion, parents may be fined \$5.00 if they come after closing to pick up their child.*
  - c. *If the child has not been picked up after fifteen minutes, the police will be notified.*
  - d. *If the child has been picked up by the police, a staff member will post a note on the door advising the parent of the circumstances and stating where the parent/guardian can locate the child.*
  - e. *At no time will personnel of the Library drive a child home.*

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## VULNERABLE ADULT

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A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair that person's ability to provide adequately for his/her personal needs and manage his/her behavior without assistance.

A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of vulnerable adults during their Library visits.

Physically challenged adults who are capable of providing for their own needs are welcome to remain in the library without supervision so long as a contact person is available in the event the adult's health or safety is in doubt.

The rules for vulnerable adults at closing time shall be the same as the rules for an unattended child.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: April 20, 2022

## TECHNOLOGY

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### COMPUTER USE POLICY

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1. Users may not change the settings of Library computers without the express permission of the Library staff
2. Tampering with or disabling of the Library's computer hardware or software, or introducing viruses is strictly prohibited.
3. The Library's computers are to be used for lawful purposes only. In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, patrons are not permitted to use terminals for any illegal or criminal purpose, including but not limited to accessing child pornography or other legally obscene materials, harassment or stalking, unauthorized access to computer systems, or in a manner disruptive of other people's work. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through electronic information systems; and encompassing any activities by a user found to be illegal, or any consequences thereof.
4. Serious or repeated violations of the Computer Use Policy may result in suspension of Library services.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

### COPIER/COPYRIGHT

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The Library copier is intended for Library patrons and Library computer use. The cost to copy materials is 15 cents per black and white page, and 25 cents for double-sided and color pages. In the event of paper jams, toner issues, or other malfunctions, Library staff will attempt to provide satisfactory assistance.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials. The WHPL is legally obliged to adhere to the copyright law. Signs advising copyright restrictions are posted by the machines, and patrons may be referred to the librarians for additional information. Patrons using public machines are liable for any infringement.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

### CYBER PRIVACY

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The Library protects the privacy of those who borrow materials and request information from the West Hurley Public Library. The Library also protects the privacy of those who use its website and other electronic services. The Technology Committees Procedures Document discloses the type of information gathered when visitors use electronic services provided by the West Hurley Library and how that information is used.

Created by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## INTERNET USE – CIPA Compliant

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Internet Users must abide by the Computer Use Policy.

The West Hurley Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, nor does the library have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. As with other library materials, a child's use of the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

The West Hurley Library shall operate in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and as such shall implement the Internet filtering protocols required by CIPA. The intent of these protocols is to filter descriptions or visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or appeal to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion and, as such, harmful to minors, which is any person under the age of 17.

Library District computers with Internet access are located in public areas shared by patrons of varying ages, background and sensibilities. Individuals are asked to be considerate about accessing potentially controversial information and images.

All rules of copyright and personal property must be honored. Information in the form of text, graphics, music, video, software, and other media retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered protected.

Internet access will be available on a first come/first serve basis; but if other patrons are waiting, use will be limited to 60 minutes per person. Library business will take precedence over patron use.

Patrons may only use a web-based service for E-mail. Patrons may download to a flash drive. Users may not install software on library computers.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## WEBSITE

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The West Hurley Library's official presence on the Internet is its website. As such, the site serves as both a gateway to the Library's resources and services and a public relations tool which presents and promotes the Library in a virtual environment.

The website is created and maintained by library staff. Every effort is made to keep the information current.

The Library strives to ensure that the website is accessible to everyone in accordance with accessibility standards and best practices. To meet this commitment, we voluntarily comply with requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 and WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines proposed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

Created by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019

## WIRELESS INTERNET USE

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The West Hurley Public Library provides wireless Internet connectivity as a service for users with wireless enabled devices.

The following are a list of rules governing usage of this wireless connection:

- Refrain from using the Library's wireless service as a permanent connection
- Abide/Accept by the Library's Internet Use Policy
- Abstain from viewing inappropriate websites, spamming, or illegal activities
- Understand that you have no expectation of privacy
- Assume all risks associated with using the connection and **not** hold the library and employees responsible for any damage caused to user's hardware or software
- Accept responsibility for configuring your own equipment
- Acknowledge that the library cannot guarantee the service will be available at any specific time
- Wireless printing is subject to the same fees as those laid out in the Copier Policy.
- The library can make no guarantees as to the compatibility of your equipment with the library's network.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 20, 2019



## PERSONNEL

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### Benefits

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The Library participates in the New York State & Local Retirement System. The Library Director is required to join upon first day of employment. All other employees are given the option to opt in/out of the NYS Retirement System

The Library offers the Library Director medical benefits and provides benefits for his/her dependents if he/she so chooses. Medical benefits include the full cost of medical insurance as well as a contribution into a Health Savings Account.

### Confidentiality

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Staff and patron information is confidential and should not be discussed with any person or persons outside the Library. Copying, removing, allowing unauthorized access to Library or patron documents, information, files or mailing lists, or any form of distribution of patron information is not allowed. Any breach of this confidentiality requirement is grounds for termination. The Library will deny access to these files to creditors, collection agencies and other outside sources, except where an employee has given written consent, or a subpoena has been issued.

### Customer Service

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During interactions with staff, patrons can expect to:

- Be acknowledged appropriately
  - Be treated courteously and respectfully
  - Be valued for their input
  - Receive the same high standard of service regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, physical limitations, or any other criteria
  - Receive prompt and timely service
  - Receive knowledgeable service and professionalism from all staff
  - Have their privacy and confidentiality respected
1. Courtesy is king: All customers should be treated in a courteous manner at all times. There is no excuse for being rude to a customer, even an irate one.
  2. Go the extra mile for a customer: A conscious effort should be made to assist a customer in finding what he/she needs and resolving a problem. If there is a policy, it should be stated politely. There is no room in customer service for "attitude."
  3. Dress appropriately: Employees dealing with patrons are expected to present themselves in a professional manner and dress accordingly.

### Drug and Alcohol Use

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If an employee reports to work visibly impaired and cannot perform the required job functions, that employee will not be allowed to work. Proper treatment of the employee, including sending the employee home, should be ascertained. In the event the employee is sent home the employee will not be allowed to drive; the Library will provide suitable transportation.

### Emergency Closings

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At times, emergencies such as severe weather, fires or power failures, can disrupt Library operations. In extreme cases, these circumstances may cause the Library to close. The decision to close will be made by the Library Director or Director Designee and an Officer of the Board of Trustees. A telephone-calling tree is used to inform all scheduled employees of a closing or late opening in a timely manner. The time off from scheduled work will be paid. Any employee who is absent due to illness, personal leave or vacation will not be charged for times that the Library is closed.

## Employee Computer Use

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Any employee of the Library who has access to a computer is prohibited from using the computer for any purpose that is offensive or harmful to the Library or that violates any Library policy. If an employee is unsure about what constitutes acceptable Internet usage, then he/she should ask the Library Director or the Library Board. Any user violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary or legal action.

### Computer, email and Internet usage

- Company employees are expected to use the Internet responsibly and productively. Internet access is limited to job-related activities only and personal use is only permitted during breaks
- Job-related activities include research and educational tasks that may be found via the Internet that would help in an employee's role
- All Internet data that is composed, transmitted and/or received by West Hurley Public Library computer systems is considered to belong to West Hurley Public Library and is recognized as part of its official data. It is therefore subject to disclosure for legal reasons or to other appropriate third parties
- The equipment, services and technology used to access the Internet are the property of the West Hurley Public Library and the library reserves the right to monitor Internet traffic and monitor and access data that is composed, sent or received through its online connections
- Emails sent via the library's Internet network should not contain content that is deemed to be offensive. This includes, though it is not restricted to, the use of vulgar or harassing images/language.
- All sites and downloads may be monitored and/or blocked by the West Hurley Public Library if they are deemed to be harmful and/or not productive to business

Examples of unacceptable use of the Internet by employees includes, but is not limited to:

- Sending or posting discriminatory, harassing, or threatening message or images on the library Internet network
- Using library computers to perpetuate any type of fraud, and/or software, film or music piracy
- Stealing, using, or disclosing someone else's password without authorization
- Downloading, copying or pirating software and electronic files that are copyrighted or without authorization
- Sharing confidential material outside of the organization
- Sending or posting chain letters, solicitations, or advertisements not related to business purposes or activities
- Passing off personal views as representing those of the organization

## Employee Safety Policy

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The Library cannot by itself create a safe and healthy environment. It needs the efforts of all of its employees. The Library's goal is to avoid accidents altogether, but to achieve this goal employees must make a conscious effort to be aware of safety and health hazards at all times.

The following are a limited number of basic precautions.

1. *Observe all smoking restrictions defined by NYS law.*
2. *Make sure that the aisles in work areas are free of debris.*
3. *Close cabinet doors and drawers when not in use.*
4. *Observe good lifting practices.*
5. *Employees should report all injuries, no matter how slight, immediately to their supervisor.*
6. *Employees should report all unsafe conditions or practices immediately to their supervisor.*

*All federal and state OSHA safety requirements must be complied with. In the event that any employee is unsure of the rules or has taken on a new responsibility, he/she should contact the supervisor for additional training.*

## Employee Status

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The library workweek is 38 hours.

The Library Director is a full-time employee with a 38-hour workweek. The Board of Trustees recognizes that managing the Library requires flexibility, and at times adjustments to hours may be appropriate to average seventy-six hours per bi-weekly pay period.

Part-time employees work 19 hours or less per week. The Library Director must approve any overtime work.

## Equal Opportunity Employment

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In order to provide equal employment and advancement opportunities to all individuals, employment decisions at the West Hurley Public Library (hereafter referred to as “the Library”) will be based on merit, qualifications and abilities. The Library does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, citizenship status, ethnicity, marital status or any other characteristic protected by Federal Equal Employment Opportunity and NYS Human Rights laws.

The Library will make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. This policy governs all aspects of employment, including selection, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination, and access to benefits and training.

Employees with questions or concerns about any type of discrimination in the workplace are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of the Library Director or the Personnel Committee. Employees can raise concerns and make reports without fear of reprisal. Anyone found to be engaging in any type of discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

## General Housekeeping

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All employees are expected to do their part in keeping the Library building clean, neat and organized. All employees are responsible for cleaning up after themselves in common areas such as the work room.

## Leaves

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Salaried employees may be granted extended unpaid leave as follows:

1. *Up to 12 weeks for maternity/paternity.*
2. *Up to 4 weeks for bereavement.*
3. *Up to 12 weeks for serious health problems for which medical certification has been provided.*

The Board of Trustees will consider each case on its individual merits.

During the unpaid leaves set forth above, Health insurance coverage, if provided by the Library, shall continue. Any payment in lieu of health insurance that is already in effect prior to the unpaid leave request shall continue.

Part-time employees may also request unpaid leave by submitting each request in writing to the Library Director who will in turn forward such request to the Board of Trustees for consideration. Each case will be considered on its individual merits.

## Nepotism

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It is the Library's belief that employees should be hired based on their skills and experience. Nepotism is defined as giving or showing a hiring preference to a family member of a current employee. If the family member would like to apply for a job he/she are welcome to do so through the usual hiring process. The Library does not give one applicant more weight over another because of a familial relationship with a current employee. It is permissible for a family member to gain an advantage by learning about the job earlier than it is advertised to the public.

## Outside Employment

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Subject to other policies, the Library has no objection to an employee holding another job (in addition to his/her employment with the Library), as long as he/she can effectively meet the performance standards of his/her position with the Library. However, the Library expects employees to seriously consider the effects that another job may have on endurance, personal health and well-being, performance and effectiveness with the Library. All employees will be held to the same scheduling demands and standards of performance. Exceptions will not be made for those who hold outside jobs.

## Payday

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Payroll period spans two weeks from Saturday to Friday with payment by Friday. Employees are required to maintain an accurate record of all time worked.

## Performance Evaluation

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The Library Director will conduct performance evaluations annually. The purpose of these evaluations is to provide feedback, clarify employee duties and identify areas for growth.

The Board of Trustees will annually evaluate the Library Director's administration of the library.

## Personnel Files

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The personnel file may contain documents including, but not limited to, the following:

- Personal Services Form to hire, change status, retire, or terminate employment
- Personal Data Form listing personal, educational, and other information related to the employee
- Payroll Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposits, pay increases
- Federal W-4 and State G-4 Withholding Forms
- Form I-9
- Garnishments, Tax Levy, Subpoenas, court ordered documentation
- Letters of Offer, acceptance, commendation, resignation
- Performance Reviews, written reprimands
- Employment application, resume/curriculum vitae

Periodically, the Library may receive requests from employees or others not employed by the Library requesting information from an employee's personnel file. Personal information maintained about an employee shall be made available for inspection only at the employee's request, except for information requested through a subpoena.

Employees may contact the Library Director to arrange for an inspection of their own personnel records.

## Recruitment/Hiring

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The library director is appointed by and responsible to the Library Board. The director recommends new employees to the board. The Library Board approves and hires all employees.

Vacancy announcements shall be published by posting announcements in the library for at least ten days. Such postings will normally specify the title and salary of the positions; the nature of the work to be performed; the minimum essential requirements of the position; the time and place to apply; the closing date for receiving applications; and other pertinent information.

Where appropriate, civil service procedures will be applied during the selection process.

## Sexual Harassment Prevention

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1. West Hurley Public Library policy applies to all employees, applicants for employment, interns, whether paid or unpaid, contractors and persons conducting business, regardless of immigration status, with West Hurley Public Library. In the remainder of this document, the term “employees” refers to this collective group.
2. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Any employee or individual covered by this policy who engages in sexual harassment or retaliation will be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action (e.g., counseling, suspension, termination).
3. Retaliation Prohibition: No person covered by this Policy shall be subject to adverse action because the employee reports an incident of sexual harassment, provides information, or otherwise assists in any investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. West Hurley Public Library will not tolerate such retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, reports or provides information about suspected sexual harassment. Any employee of West Hurley Public Library who retaliates against anyone involved in a sexual harassment investigation will be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. All employees, paid or unpaid interns, or non-employees<sup>2</sup> working in the workplace who believe they have been subject to such retaliation should inform the library director or a member of the board personnel committee. All employees, paid or unpaid interns or non-employees who believe they have been a target of such retaliation may also seek relief in other available forums, as explained below in the section on Legal Protections.
4. Sexual harassment is offensive, is a violation of our policies, is unlawful, and may subject West Hurley Public Library to liability for harm to targets of sexual harassment. Harassers may also be individually subject to liability. Employees of every level who engage in sexual harassment, including managers and supervisors who engage in sexual harassment or who allow such behavior to continue, will be penalized for such misconduct.
5. West Hurley Public Library will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation that ensures due process for all parties, whenever management receives a complaint about sexual harassment, or otherwise knows of possible sexual harassment occurring. West Hurley Public Library will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. Effective corrective action will be taken whenever sexual harassment is found to have occurred. All employees, including managers and supervisors, are required to cooperate with any internal investigation of sexual harassment.
6. All employees are encouraged to report any harassment or behaviors that violate this policy. West Hurley Public Library will provide all employees a complaint form for employees to report harassment and file complaints.
7. The library director is **required** to report any complaint that they receive, or any harassment that they observe or become aware of, to the board personnel committee.
8. This policy applies to all employees, paid or unpaid interns, and non-employees and all must follow and uphold this policy. This policy must be provided to all employees and should be posted prominently in all work locations to the extent practicable (for example, in a main office, not an offsite work location) and be provided to employees upon hiring.

<sup>1</sup> While this policy specifically addresses sexual harassment, harassment because of and discrimination against persons of all protected classes is prohibited. In New York State, such classes include age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, marital status, domestic violence victim status, gender identity and criminal history.

<sup>2</sup> A non-employee is someone who is (or is employed by) a contractor, subcontractor, vendor, consultant, or anyone providing services in the workplace. Protected non-employees include persons commonly referred to as independent contractors, “gig” workers and temporary workers. Also included are persons providing equipment repair, cleaning services or any other services provided pursuant to a contract with the employer.

## Staff Cell Phone

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The Library pays for a cell phone service for the director so that he/she can remain current in the new technologies and in contact with the library staff. It is expected that the cell phone be only used in a legal manner. This includes the ban of hand-held devices while operating a vehicle. The cell phone can in no way be used to violate the library's discrimination and harassment policies.

The bills for the phone shall be reviewed regularly.

Lost or damaged devices are the responsibility of the employee.

Business conversations should be held in private.

## Staff Code of Ethics

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Library employees significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information.

In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry, library employees are explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

As an employee of the West Hurley Public Library, I will:

- Provide prompt, accurate and friendly service
- Treat all library users with equal respect and consideration
- Consider every question valid
- Provide information expressing various viewpoints
- Be committed to intellectual freedom, encouraging the exchange of ideas and information and resisting all efforts to censor library resources
- Foster and support teamwork, cooperation and involvement to all levels of the organization
- Treat my co-workers with respect and honesty and work as a team with the Library Board in support of the library's goals
- Respect and protect the privacy of library patrons to the fullest extent permissible by law
- Distinguish clearly, in my actions and statements, between my personal philosophy and attitudes and those of my library
- Avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or my Library

Employees receive the Staff Code of Ethics annually with their evaluation. A copy will also be posted in the staff workroom.

## Staff Development

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The Library is committed to having a trained and educated workforce. Staff members are urged to improve their skills in librarianship, and, with the permission of the library director, to attend library conferences and other professional meetings.

The library will make every effort to arrange schedules to permit staff members wishing to take further study to continue working at the library. As time allows, staff members may be asked to attend continuing education workshops. For travel and personal expenses involved in attending such workshops, mileage reimbursements will be paid, and reimbursement for other expenses may be allowed. Mileage rates will be paid at the rate set annually by the Mid-Hudson Library System. Within the library, training or information programs for the staff may be initiated either by the library director or by interested staff members.

## Standards of Conduct

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Employees in any organization are expected to observe certain standards of job performance and acceptable conduct. While the Library cannot list every possible area of unacceptable conduct, set forth below are examples of conduct which would not be acceptable in the work environment and in the case of gross misconduct, may result in immediate termination on the first offense.

### **Job Performance**

1. Below average work quality or quantity.
2. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness.

### **Gross Misconduct**

1. Insubordination.
2. Failure to follow safety policy or procedures.
3. Dishonesty.
4. Rudeness or lack of cooperation with employees, customers, or vendors.
5. Theft of company property or the personal property of others.
6. Falsifying or altering Library records including employment application, time sheets or medical documents.
7. Altercations, fighting, threatening, or intimidating others.
8. Violation of the Library's policy against discrimination and harassment.
9. Retaliating against any employee who makes a complaint or participates in an investigation relating to the Library's policy against discrimination and harassment.
10. Being under the influence of, using, possessing or selling alcohol or illegal controlled substances on Library property or while conducting business for the Library.
11. Gambling on Library property or while conducting Library business.
12. Sleeping during working hours.
13. Possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons on Library property or while conducting Library business.
14. Being convicted of a crime that indicates unfitness for the job or raises a threat to the safety or well-being of Library employees.
15. Disclosing company confidential or proprietary information to unauthorized persons.
16. Not following the documented policies of the Library.

## Termination of Employment

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A part-time employee who resigns is expected to give the Library two weeks' notice, except in the case of illness or family emergency. A full-time employee who resigns is expected to give the Library one months' notice, except in the case of illness or family emergency.

Employees may be terminated for substandard work without notice during a 3-month probationary period.

After the probation period, employees will receive oral and written counseling to improve substandard performance. If performance does not improve, the employee will be given written notice that performance must be improved within the next 30 days; if performance does not improve the employee will be terminated. Serious offenses, including but not limited to theft, use of drugs or alcohol while at work, physical assault, bringing a weapon onto library property, or a determination of sexual harassment on the part of an employee, may result in immediate dismissal without counseling. Employees who are terminated may file a grievance with the President of the Board of Trustees within five days of termination. A grievance must be made in writing.

If budget cuts necessitate a reduction in staffing levels, the Library Director will determine which positions can be cut to create the least negative effect on Library services, and submit a plan to the Library's Board of Trustees for approval before implementation.



## Time Off

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The library will be closed for 6 holidays, per year. The Director is paid their regular hourly rate of pay for holiday closings and time off for jury duty. Part-time employees are paid their regular hourly rate of pay for holiday closings and time off for jury duty which takes place during the employee's scheduled work hours.

The director shall receive 10 vacation days each calendar year after the first year; 15 days after 5 years and 20 days after 10 years. The Director is encouraged to take vacation in the year in which it was earned. The maximum cumulative is 5 vacation days total.

If severed from employment, the Director will be compensated for any accrued, unused vacation following the effective date of severance. During the first and last years of employment, vacation time shall be prorated on the basis of one-tenth of the stipulated time for each month of employment for that calendar year.

The Director shall have 10 sick days per calendar year which are granted at the beginning of the calendar year. The maximum cumulative is 15 sick days total.

Paid time off to conduct personal business will be available to the Director each year, beginning with two days a year and adding one day a year to a total of five in the fourth year of employment with a maximum of five. These days are non-cumulative.

Accumulated sick days and personal days are forfeited upon termination of employment.

Up to five days funeral leave shall be provided per event in case of death in the immediate family (spouse, mother, father, child, sibling, grandparents, mother in law, or father in law). The Director may use other available paid leave for additional time off as necessary. Special circumstances will be considered by the Board.

Unpaid leave will be granted by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act. Medical insurance will be continued for employees who receive health coverage through the library or employees will receive payments in lieu of coverage through the library.

## Whistleblowers

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The West Hurley Public Library's Code of Ethics ("Code") requires Directors, Board members and Employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of the Organization, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is the responsibility of all directors, officers and employees to comply with the Code and to report violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

No director, officer or employee who in good faith reports a violation of the Code shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within the Organization prior to seeking resolution outside the Organization.

Employees should share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, the Library Director is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with your director or you are not satisfied with the response, you are encouraged to speak with the President of the Board of Trustees to report suspected violations.

The President of the board of directors shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing. Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of the Code must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation of the Code. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

The Director or Board President will notify the sender and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation within five business days. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

Copies of this policy will be made available on the library website as well as in the library.

## Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance

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Employee benefits under each program are determined by the law and are available for employee use in the event of injury or unemployment.

Revised by the Board of Trustees (in part): June 17, 2019