

Raquette Lake Library
P.O. Box 129
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Raquette Lake Library By-Laws

Mission Statement

The Raquette Lake Free Library mission is to assemble, preserve, and provide free access to quality services and materials that meet the needs of the community. We strive to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know while providing access to information in an open and non-judgmental environment. Our mission is to reflect all points of view with free access to materials in a variety of formats for people of all ages.

Preamble

The Board of Trustees (hereinafter designated as the "Board") of The Raquette Lake Free Library, a corporation created under a charter granted under Section 253 of the New York State Education Law by the Board of Regents (or Secretary of State) of the State of New York, dated provisional charter May 25, 1922 and absolute charter February 11, 1938, shall be governed by the laws of New York State, the regulations of the Commissioner of Education and by the following bylaws.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the organization shall be the Raquette Lake Free Library ("RLFL").

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the organization is to provide superior library service to the residents, adults and children, of the communities of the Raquette Lake School District.

FISCAL

1. The fiscal year of the library shall be the calendar year (January-December).

MEMBERSHIP

1. A member of the RLFL is any person who has paid the annual membership fee as set by the Board of Trustees for that calendar year. Membership in the Library entitles individuals present at the Annual Meeting to vote.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The library shall be governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board shall consist of five members, elected for terms of five years each. The trustees are elected by members of the library present at the library Annual Meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor. A trustee is elected on a rotating basis for a five-year term. Newly elected members will take office at the first meeting following the annual meeting.

- a. Eligibility for office shall be limited to adults residing or owning property within the geographical limits of the library district.
- b. Absence from three consecutive meetings shall constitute automatic dismissal from the Board unless the Board defers this dismissal by majority vote. The President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing that he/she is no longer on the Board. If dismissal is deferred by Board action the President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing of the conditions of this deferral.
- c. Any vacancy shall be filled by special election by the remaining members of the Board for the remainder of the term of that particular position. In the event of the death or resignation of a Trustee, the remaining Trustees promptly select a successor to serve the unexpired term of office. (*Refer to charter for local provisions*)
- d. The Board may remove a Trustee for misconduct, incapacity, neglect of duty or refusal to carry into effect the library's educational purpose as provided in Education Law 226; subdivision 8.
- e. Each Trustee shall have one vote, irrespective of office held.
- f. A Trustee must be present at a meeting, physically or via online format (zoom, gmeet, etc.) to have his/her vote counted.
- g. A majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) is required for any motion to pass.

- h. All actions of the Board shall be of the Board as a unit. No Board member shall act on behalf of the Board, on any matter, without prior approval of the Board. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the library nor, as an individual, command the services of any library employee.

OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Board shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually by the Board at the annual meeting. These officers shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors shall have been duly elected.
2. The duties of such officers shall be as follows:
 - a. The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Board, authorize calls for any special meetings, appoint all committees, execute all documents authorized by the Board, serve as an ex-officio voting member of all committees, and generally perform all duties associated with that office.
 - b. The **Vice President**, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, or of a vacancy in that office, shall assume and perform the duties and functions of the President.
 - c. The **Secretary** shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the Board, shall issue notice of all regular and special meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with that office.

- d. The **Treasurer** shall be the disbursing officer of the Board and shall perform such duties as generally devolve upon the office. In the absence or inability of the Treasurer, his/her duties shall be performed by such other members of the Board as the Board may designate. Money may be withdrawn only with the signature of the Treasurer or President.

DIRECTOR

1. The Board shall appoint a Director who shall be the chief executive officer of the library corporation and shall have charge of the administration of the library under the direction and review of the Board. The Director shall be responsible for the care of the buildings and equipment; for the employment and direction of the staff; for the efficiency of the library's service to the public; and for the operation of the library under the financial conditions contained in the annual budget.
2. The Director shall render and submit to the Board reports and recommendations of such policies and procedures, which, in the opinion of the Director, will improve efficiency and quality of library service. The Director shall attend all Board meetings except the portion of the meeting at which the director's appointment or salary is to be discussed or decided.

COMMITTEES

1. Committees for specific purposes may be appointed by the President. Such committees shall serve until the completion of the work for which they were appointed.

2. All committees shall make a progress report to the Board at each of its meetings.
3. No committee will have other than advisory powers unless, by suitable action of the Board, it is granted specific power to act.
4. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees.

MEETINGS

1. Meetings shall be held in the library a minimum of one per quarter, or at least four times a year up to ten meetings. The date and hour of each meeting is to be set by the Board. Written notice of all meetings shall be sent by the Secretary to each member (via US mail or email) at least five days before the meeting.
2. Notice of all board meetings will be sent to the news media, noted on the Library's website and posted in a public place such as the Library bulletin board at least one week prior to the meeting.
3. A special meeting of the Board may be called at any time by the President or upon the request of three members for a specific purpose. No business may be transacted at a special meeting except the stated business. When a special meeting is scheduled less than a week in advance, notice will be given to the public "to the extent practicable" at a reasonable time prior to the meeting.
4. The Annual Meeting shall be held in August of each year. The business transacted at this meeting shall include the election of new trustees and new officers.

5. A simple majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of all business. A simple majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) is required for any motion to pass. If a quorum is not present at a regular meeting, the attending members may set a date for another meeting to be held within one week, and the presiding officer shall notify the absent members of this specially called meeting.
6. The order of business for regular meetings shall include, but not be limited to, the following items which shall be covered in the sequence shown unless circumstances make an altered order more efficient:
 - a. Call to Order and recording attendance of members
 - b. Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Approval of prior Meeting Minutes
 - d. Period for public comment
 - e. Correspondence
 - f. Personnel Actions Report
 - g. Director's and Department Heads' reports
 - h. Treasurer's report
 - Itemized report of expenses and income
 - i. Committee Reports
 - j. Old Business
 - k. New Business
 - l. Dates of future board meetings

m. Other Business

n. Adjournment

AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed at any regular meeting and shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting. Written notice of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be sent to all absent members at least ten days prior to the voting session. A simple majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) shall be sufficient for adoption of an amendment.

a. Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these Bylaws or otherwise, may be suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand, but such suspension, to be valid, may be taken only at a meeting at which a simple majority, or 3 of the 5 members of the Board shall be present and 3/5 of those present shall so approve.

PROCEDURE

1. All procedures not specified herein shall be in accord with *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*.

Approved by The Raquette Lake Library Board of Trustees

Dated: 8/22/20.

***All public libraries in New York State are required to make their Bylaws easily accessible to the public, including posting them on the library's website.
(Education Department [Regulations \(8 NYCRR\) § 90.2](#))***