

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees 11/21/2022

Mission Statement

The Meekins Library, flagship of the Williamsburg Libraries, is the public learning center of our community and the place people turn to for information, entertainment, inspiration, and connection. Community needs drive our services and we take a personal interest in ensuring they are met in a welcoming and responsive manner grounded in inclusion, equity, and respect. Meekins also serves as the elementary school library, nurturing in young people the joy of reading, the development of critical research skills, and appreciation for the value of libraries.

Our Values

The Williamsburg Libraries are a cherished institution in our town, and this is due, in large part, to the values that shape and guide them. We recognize the importance of using a set of values to shape the library's future as well as to inspire our shared dedication to the institution. At this time, we find the following ten values to be of central importance.

Learning — We value being a center and resource for learning for people of all ages and abilities.

Staff Development — We value nurturing the skills and talents of staff and volunteers because they shape the library and the community's experience of it every day.

Access — We value full and equal access to library buildings, services, programs, and technology, as well as information and materials in various formats. Further, we value providing access to a broad spectrum of views and ideas, including controversial ones. We believe that access to all kinds of information is essential to a healthy community and democracy.

Confidentiality and Privacy — We value the protection of all patrons' privacy and confidentiality in irrevocable support of intellectual freedom.

Collaboration — We value collaboration among library staff, volunteers, and patrons on projects large and small. Further, we value existing and new collaborations with departments in town government, schools, businesses, other libraries, and other organizations.

Adaptability — We value staying current with trends in the library field, and we do

our best to anticipate the changing library needs of the community.

Creativity — We value the development and exchange of ideas and talents to support individual growth and the cultural life of the community, and provide space for exhibitions, special programs, and community discussions.

Diversity — We value the diversity that exists in our community and nation, and our resources and services will reflect that diversity.

Preservation — We value the ongoing care of our buildings and grounds, the historical materials stored here, and the physical and digital resources that serve our patrons.

Neighborliness — We value being the community’s “living room” — a place where people can find friendly faces, conversation, and comfort.

Social Justice Statement

The staff, volunteers, Trustees, and Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries are committed to a culture of inclusion, equity, and respect. We strive to:

- Eliminate racial, social, and accessibility barriers in library services, facilities and staffing;
- Cultivate collections, programs, and services that highlight diverse voices with a range of life experiences;
- Facilitate conversations and partnerships that address community challenges, broaden awareness of racial and social injustice, and engage underserved residents; and
- Ensure that patrons, staff, and volunteers of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and abilities feel welcomed and supported.