

## Board of Library Trustees Policy Subcommittee Minutes

Meeting date: March 6, 2025

Present: Amelia Holstrom, Karen Grycel, Cheryl Wesolowski. C. Wesolowski left the meeting at 3:44 pm due to illness

The meeting began at 3:32 pm.

### Safe Child Policy Discussion

- C. Wesolowski discussed how helpful the input from the staff was regarding their thoughts about the policy. Expressed input that children under 11 should be supervised by an appropriate caretaker in the library. K. Grycel was comfortable with the age 10 or 11 for children to be unaccompanied. A. Holstrom indicated that she preferred the age of 11 as it corresponded to the age of a child generally transitioning from fifth grade (elementary) to 6<sup>th</sup> grade (middle school).
- The committee members discussed that the current policy allows children who are 8 and older to use the library unaccompanied, but the age is low compared to other libraries similar in size to our library.
- Discussed addressing elevator use in the policy and requiring adult supervision, unless the child has a medical or other need requiring use of the elevator. Learned that the elevator contains an emergency button that calls dispatch in the event of an emergency.
- A. Holstrom proposed that children 11 and older could use the library unaccompanied. Children 6 and under must be directly supervised by a caregiver at all times. Children 7-10 must be accompanied in the library by a caregiver, but may use the Children's Section of the library while the caregiver used another section of the library on the same floor. Southwick policy provided by a staff member has some potential language. K. Grycel indicated she liked the tiered approach.
- K. Grycel liked the way that the Granby Public Library organized their policy with the focus on the caregiver's responsibility. K. Grycel agreed to review other policies related to flow and report back at the next meeting.
- The committee members discussed getting staff input on the draft policy, once complete, prior to implementing.
- The committee members discussed the appropriate age of the caregiver accompanying the child.
- Discussed the need to address events for children and caregiver supervision at those events (i.e. story time, crafts). Discussed that additional input from staff may be required.
- The committee members agreed to review the policy and notes from staff in more detail and discuss at a subsequent meeting to be scheduled.

Meeting ended at 4:52 pm.