



Facts about Thayer Public Library

HISTORY

Thayer Public Library was founded in 1874 with generous funding from General Sylvanus Thayer, the “father” of West Point military academy and resident of Braintree. The original 1874 library building is still standing, located next to Town Hall. In 1953, a new modern building was erected in our current location across the street. There were two branch libraries in addition to the main library. In 1999, the 1953 library building was demolished and the new building you see today was built in its place. The branches were closed with all library services consolidated into our new larger building. In 2009, the property next door was purchased and demolished to provide space for our expanded parking lot.

GOVERNANCE

The library is a department of the Town of Braintree, its governance derived from the Town Charter. We work closely with the Mayor and Braintree Town Council members. The Board of Library Trustees is the body that governs the library. There are nine trustees; elected to four-year terms each. Their role is to set policy and to hire and work with the Library Director to make certain the library remains vital. They seek out and advocate for adequate funding. Trustees also represent the community. They listen to the needs of the residents and act as liaisons, advocating for the best interests of the Town.

FUNDING

Major funding for Thayer Public Library comes from the Town of Braintree’s annual operating and capital budgets. We also receive funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through State Aid to Public Libraries awards. These awards are offered in exchange for meeting certain minimum standards of library service. The Board of Library Trustees provides supplemental funding through its trust funds. The Friends of Thayer Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been a generous supporter of the library over many years. The Friends’ capital campaign raised a large percentage of the funds for the expanded parking lot. We also rely on donations, bequests, and grants for supplemental funding.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Thayer Public Library Board of Trustees

Where Can I find information on Thayer Public Library's library bylaws?

Information on the library's bylaws can be found on our website or the Town of Braintree's Charter.

Where can I find details related to the library's upcoming board meetings?

Trustee Board Meetings are monthly and are listed on the library's online calendar. All Meetings are posted at the Town Clerks Office.

Are board meetings in-person?

Yes, board meetings are in-person and are held in Logan Auditorium.

Where can I find details related to applications/elections for board seats?

Information about applications and elections for board seats can be found at the Town of Braintree Clerks Office.

Where can I find meeting notes ("minutes") from past board meetings, or agenda documents for past/upcoming board meetings?

Past board meeting minutes, agenda and Directors reports can be found on the library website. Physical copies are kept in the Directors Office.

What are the Trustees' general responsibilities?

Trustees' responsibilities are divided into six major categories: 1. Legal 2. Governance and Policy Making 3. Financial 4. Strategic Planning 5. Human Resources 6. Continuing Education.

Where does the Board get its authority?

Board of Library Trustees derives its authority from Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, sections 7-13 & 33-34

Why might I contact the Board of Library Trustees?

A town resident may contact the Board with any questions, or concerns related to library services, policies or procedures.