**Patron Behavior Policy**

The Board of Library Trustees of the New Hampton Public Library are responsible for determining the rules of behavior necessary to protect all library users’ access to the library and to its materials, to ensure the safety of library users and staff, and to protect the library’s resources and facility from damage. Patrons are expected to observe the rights of other people and to use the library for its intended purpose. Library staff members will courteously, but firmly enforce the policy.

Behavior not allowed in or outside the library:

* Any behavior that endangers the safety of health of others,
* Violation of any local, state, or federal law,
* Vandalism or deliberate destruction of library properties; Patrons will be financially responsible for any destruction of library property,
* Deliberate disruption of library procedures (including the work of the staff),
* Use of profane or abusive language,
* Loud talking or laughing that disturbs or could disturb other patrons,
* Loitering in the building or on the grounds,
* Use of cell phones that is disruptive to other patrons.

Patrons who are behaving inappropriately or disruptively will be warned that the behavior must stop. A verbal warning will be issued to any person or group that violates the rules. Any further warnings will result in expulsions from the library and its grounds. However, no warning is required, if in the judgment of the library staff, the behavior in question:

1. Violates federal, state, county, or municipal laws, or
2. Poses an immediate threat to the safety of the wellbeing of other library users or staff.

Library employees are authorized to enforce these rules. The library reserves the right to revoke or restrict library privileges of a patron for behavior contrary to these rules and regulations. In cases where voluntary compliance is not adhered to, the police may be called for assistance. Habitual abusers of library rules may be banned from the premises for a period ranging from one day to three months. A minor (a person under age 18) who creates chronic problems may be required, for up to three months, to bring a responsible adult who will remain with them in the library.

**Service Animals**

Certified service animals are permitted in the library. Other animals are not permitted. Exceptions for programming may be made by the library director.

*\*Updated June 2023*