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As with any good institution, the Dedham Public Library has been updating its policies to ensure they are accurate, consistent with mission, represent best practice, and meet citizen needs. This thoughtful review has been a focus of both the administration and trustees and aims to translate ambitious goals into reality. We are driven by a desire to be inviting and inclusive by enabling expressions of questions and ideas among varying viewpoints, philosophies, suggestions, and needs of each of our staff and patrons. Above all, we hope to be a center where those varying ideas are shared in a courteous and civil manner and where each person feels safe and respected, even by those with whom they may disagree. To foster this kind of engagement, we aim to provide diverse materials that are thought provoking and relevant to current issues, including those which may be deemed controversial.

The mission of the Dedham Public Library includes providing free and equitable access to information and to empower discovery, inquiry, and growth, while the Library's Vision Statement includes "offering sanctuary and resources to address community disparities and helping those in need."

Recently we have updated policies regarding building and facilities use, development of our collection, offerings of programs, and the ever-evolving pandemic response.

We are proud of the collaborative efforts of our staff to be proactive and creative in ensuring that we live our values and for their work creating an environment where community members feel seen and valued.

We are pleased to make our policies public and invite responses if you believe that we have fallen short of meeting the aspirations set forth in our mission. We are committed to continuously working on behalf of all Dedham residents.

Respectfully,

Shirin Baradaran, Brian Keaney, Crystal Power, Annette Raphel, Tom Turner
Board of Library Trustees

Amber Moroney
Library Director