

Burnham Memorial Library
Colchester, VT

**LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS
RULES FOR USE & APPLICATION**

Use of meeting rooms in community libraries is primarily for programs conducted or sponsored by the library, and secondarily, for programs of established and recognized institutions, groups, and associations with educational, cultural, or civic purposes, subject to the policies established by the Burnham Library Board of Trustees. The fact that a group is permitted to use a room does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the group's policies or beliefs by the library. All meetings must be open to the public.

The Library Board of Trustees subscribes to the tenets of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*, which states in part, "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use."

Programs that are planned by the library take precedence over meetings of outside groups. The library reserves the right to preempt the use of meeting space for library purposes upon two (2) weeks' notice to the organization which had requested that space. The library reserves the right to deny a request or revoke a reservation if the program or gathering is disruptive to the library's normal course of business, is in violation of the adopted *Library Code of Conduct*, or in violation of the guidelines set forth in this Meeting Room policy.

As long as meetings do not conflict with one another, there is no objection to regular meetings of the same group; however, in fairness to the numerous groups of the community, reservations of this nature are not taken more than six (6) months in advance. Single use reservations may be made up to nine (9) months in advance.

APPLICATION: Formal application for the use of any meeting room is made with the Library Director or designated staff member. The ~~An~~ individual responsible for the meeting must complete and sign an application form. Reservations will not be considered firm until the application is signed by a representative from the group making the reservation and notice of acceptance is given by the Library Director. Reconfirmation of the meeting must be made with the Library Director at least one week prior to the meeting. Cancellations or changes of meeting dates also must be cleared with the Library Director. Minors under the age of 16 may not reserve the room, nor can they serve as sponsors.

The Meeting House is located next door to the library and offers two floors, of which the lower floor includes a kitchen.

General Rules of Use

1. Meeting rooms may not be used for sales promotion or for the financial benefit of private individuals or commercial concerns or entities engaged in the marketing or distribution of goods or services.
2. No admission charge may be made for any function held in the Community Meeting Rooms, unless it is a fund-raising activity on behalf of the Burnham Library, Friends of the Burnham Library, or another local charity approved by the Library Director. Tickets may not be sold nor donations or free will offerings taken. However, the collection of membership dues and/or registration fees covering the cost of materials or speakers may be acceptable, with advance approval of the Library Director.
3. Political meetings are acceptable for the discussion of issues to include candidate forums and party caucuses if the meetings are open to the public.
4. Except as a designation of location, the name of the library may not be used in any publicity relating to the use of meeting rooms. Any advertisement for a meeting or program held at the Burnham Library by an outside group or organization must include the following disclaimer: "The Burnham Memorial Library is not sponsoring or endorsing this program, or any goods or services offered."
5. Individuals or groups using the meeting room shall secure any necessary performance licenses and indemnify the library for any failure on their part in doing so.
6. Attendance at authorized meetings may not exceed the maximum room capacity of 94 people in the upstairs level of the Meeting House, and 75 people in the lower level of the Meeting House. Special parking accommodations may be required for larger groups. These limits may be adjusted due to current community infection rates.
7. Groups of children or teenagers must be supervised by one adult for every ten children/teens. The library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children while adults are attending meetings. A copy of the Library's *Policy on Unattended Children* may be obtained from library staff.
8. No cooking may be done, or food served without approval. No alcohol may be served at any time. Smoking, vaping, burning of any materials, including incense and candles, is prohibited.
9. There is no charge for meeting room use during the library's regular hours of operation. Programs should be planned so that meeting space will be vacated 15 minutes before closing time. If scheduling a meeting after regular library hours a \$25 key deposit is required. These funds will be refunded once all keys are returned.
10. Meeting rooms must be left in acceptable, un-littered condition. Tables and chairs should be returned to the positions in which they were found. No tacks or nails are to be used on walls, doors, or furniture. Use of adhesive tape must not damage walls, doors, or furniture. In the event that the library has to clean up the area following use, the applicant may be charged for that expense.
11. All local, state, and federal laws must be followed.
12. Meetings must be conducted in such a way as not to disturb library operations.

13. Use of audio-visual equipment must be arranged at the time of reservation.
14. Library personnel will not move or rearrange heavy equipment.
15. The library will not provide storage space and assumes no responsibility for equipment or personal articles belonging to applicants or their guests.
16. The applicant accepts liability for any damage to library facilities and/or loss of library property.
17. The library reserves the right to close due to adverse weather conditions and will attempt to contact the applicant.
18. The applicant assumes responsibility for participant accommodations (e.g. assistive listening devices, etc.) and specific articles of compliance as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
19. Library personnel must always have access to meeting rooms. The library retains the right to monitor all meetings conducted on the premises to ensure compliance with the above regulations. Infringement of any of the regulations here stated shall be grounds for denial of future use of meeting space.
20. The Library Director shall have final authority regarding use of Library meeting rooms and/or cancellation or discontinuance of meeting room reservations.

The Town of Colchester, Burnham Memorial Library, and the Burnham Library Board of Trustees are not responsible for any accident, injury, or loss of individual property while the Room is in use.

Approved by the Selectboard on May 9, 2017

Approved by the Burnham Memorial Library Board of Trustees on February 15, 2007

Revised by the Board of Trustees: August 17, 2023

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees: May 17, 2018

LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM APPLICATION

Organization Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Purpose of Organization: _____

Applicant Information

Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

E-mail: _____

Meeting Information

Room Requested: ☐ Burnham Rm (max 25)–Currently unavailable 7/2023
☐ Meeting House up (max 94) ☐ Meeting House down (max 75)

Date(s) Requested: _____

Time: from _____ to _____

Please be aware of the \$25 key deposit for meetings scheduled after regular hours.

Purpose of Meeting: _____

Expected Attendance: _____

Does your organization require any special accommodations? If so, please list below.

I have read and understand the “Library Community Meeting Rooms Rules for Use” and agree to abide by them. I assume full responsibility for any damage to the property and/or equipment that occur as a result of the requested use. Furthermore, I understand that they Town of Colchester, its staff, and members will not be held liable for any injury or damage which may occur to me, my guests, and/or members of the named organization and or property during our requested use of the property.

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Request accepted by: _____ Request accepted on: _____

Request processed by: _____ Added to the calendar on: _____

Keys needed: YES NO Key # : _____

Keys issued on: _____ Keys picked up by: _____

Key Deposit: CASH CHECK

Keys returned on: _____

Key Deposit: RETURNED IN PERSON RETURNED VIA MAIL SHREDDED DONATED

Building Inspection completed by: _____

Date/Time of Inspection: _____

Condition: POOR/DIRTY GOOD/SAME Damages: YES NO

Description of Damages: _____
