

Distributing and Soliciting Policy

The Athol Public Library Board of Trustees have established the following policy in order that the Athol Public Library performs the role of information disseminator in a satisfactory manner:

1. The Library does not permit individuals or groups to conduct surveys in the library building.
2. Individuals soliciting signatures for political petitions or nomination papers may not actively approach people in the library building. Nomination papers and political petitions may not be left unattended in the Library for signatures as that might be construed as using public funds to support a candidate or issue.
3. Solicitation of the public or the staff is not permitted on public library property or property under the control of the public library by the public or members of the library staff. By soliciting it is meant the sale or distribution of merchandise, sales materials, tickets, insurance, coupons, magazine subscriptions, political campaign material, or anything not connected with the work of the library.
4. Copies of free newsletters and newspapers may be left for distribution at the Library as space permits. Local organization newsletters, course announcements and listings of town and school programs may also be left at the Library for distribution as space permits. Library related materials receive priority.
5. Individuals wishing to leave materials for distribution are asked to request permission from the library staff. This need not be a formal written request.

The only exceptions to the non-solicitation policy are the following:

- Those for fund-raising projects conducted to promote learning at the local schools with permission from the Board of Library Trustees. This must be a written request.
- Those solicitation and fund-raising projects sponsored by the library staff or the Friends of the Athol Public Library with the approval of the library director (i.e. read-a-thons, food drives, Book/Bake/Treasure Sales, miscellaneous items, etc.).

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees 21 September 2011