

Change Number of Trustee Board

June 09, 2014

QUESTION: The Blaisdell Memorial Library Board of Trustees is wants to change the number of trustees from 3 to 5. Could you please tell me how they would go about it?

ANSWER: Response from the NHMA legal services.

Here is the statute. **The change would require a warrant article to be voted upon at a town meeting, with language something like, "To see if the Town will vote to change the number of library trustees from three to five, in accordance with RSA 202-A:6."**

[Process]

1. If the town votes to enlarge the board to 5 members, at the first annual meeting following this meeting, the town shall elect 2 members for a 3-year term and one member for a one-year term.
2. At the next succeeding annual meeting 2 members shall be elected for a 3-year term.
3. At the next following annual meeting one member shall be elected for a 3-year term, and
4. At succeeding annual meetings members shall be elected to fill the vacancies regularly occurring.

As to the procedure for moving from 3 to 5, I copied the election procedure from RSA 41:8-e, which deals with moving from 3 selectmen to 5 selectmen. If the selectmen do not agree to place this article on the warrant, it can still be placed as a result of a citizen petition in accordance with RSA 39:3.

202-A:6 Library Trustees; Election; Alternates. – The library trustees shall have the entire custody and management of the public library and of all the property of the town relating thereto, including appropriations held pursuant to RSA 202-A:11, III, but excepting trust funds held by the town. Any town having a public library shall, at a duly warned town meeting, **elect a board of library trustees consisting of any odd number of persons which the town may decide to elect.** Such trustees shall serve staggered 3-year terms or until their successors are elected and qualified. There may be no more than 3 alternates as provided in RSA 202-A:10.

Sincerely,

Paul Sanderson, Staff Attorney
NH Municipal Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord NH 03301

From the Nottingham 2015 Annual Report:

ARTICLE #15: To see if the Town will vote to change the number of Library Trustees from three (3) to five (5), in accordance with RSA 202-A:6. If the town votes to enlarge the board to five (5) members, at the first annual meeting following this meeting, the town shall elect two (2) members for a 3-year term and one (1) member for a one-year term. At the next succeeding annual meeting two (2) members shall be elected for a 3-year term, at the next following annual meeting one (1) member shall be elected for a 3-year term, and at succeeding annual meetings members shall be elected to fill the vacancies regularly occurring. The Board of Selectmen recommends this warrant article (3 – 0). Majority vote required. [voted in the affirmative]

From Salisbury 2011 Annual Report:

WARRANT # 7 [voted in the affirmative at the March 8, 2011 Town Meeting]

"To see if the Town will vote to increase the size of the Board of Library Trustees from three to five members. If approved, in 2012, in addition to the position that is normally up, the Town shall also elect one member for a three year term and one member for a two year term. Thereafter, each member shall serve three year terms."

From the Board of Trustees of the Salisbury Public Library