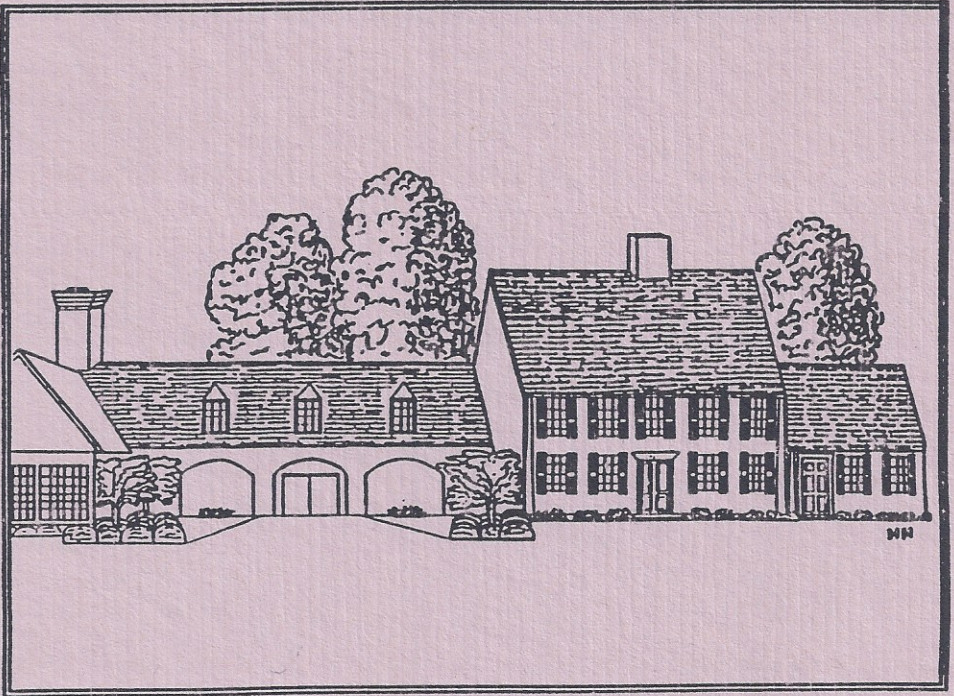


The  
Windsor Library  
Association



**CHARTER  
HISTORY  
MEMBERSHIP**  
May 10, 1994







# Resolution

## Incorporating The Windsor Library Association

General Assembly,  
January Session, A.D. 1901.

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY:

**Section 1.** That Frederick W. Harriman, Walter W. Loomis, Elizabeth B. Loomis, Nathaniel W. Hayden, Alice W. Hayden, Sarah E. Tuttle, Arthur W. Tryon, Emma A. Tryon, Samuel A. Wilson, L. Louise Wilson, William H. Harvey, Horace H. Ellsworth, Helen Loomis, Mary E. Bell, Edward S. Payne, Elijah C. Johnson, Roscoe Nelson, D. Ellsworth Phelps, Mary E. Power, Eliza W. Hills, Clark S. Beardslee, Ruel C. Tuttle, Jennie Loomis, Henry A. Huntington, and Charles W. Cook, being all the present members of The Windsor Library Association, a voluntary association now existing in the town of Windsor, and such other persons as they shall associate with them and their successors, be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of The Windsor Library Association, to be located in the town of Windsor.

**Section 2.** Said corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to purchase, receive, hold, and convey all kinds of property, both real and personal, whatsoever, necessary, requisite, or convenient for the purpose of establishing a public library in said town of Windsor; a reading room in connection therewith; a collection of articles having historic, artistic, or scientific interest for the use of the inhabitants of said town; and for carrying out such kindred objects as may be deemed by said corporation of public benefit; and all property of said corporation including any funds or estate heretofore or hereafter donated to it for the purposes of said library, to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, shall be exempt from taxation.

**Section 3.** Said corporation shall have power to make all necessary rules, regulations, the by-laws for the government of the corporation, the care and preservation of its property, and the maintenance of a public library, and reading, historical, and other rooms in connection therewith.

**Section 4.** The present constitution and by-laws of the association now existing under the same name shall continue in force and effect until other by-laws shall be adopted by the association; and the present officers of said association shall hold their respective offices until others are elected in their places.

**Section 5.** This resolution shall take effect when accepted by a majority vote of the members of The Windsor Library Association present and voting at a meeting to be specially warned and called for the purpose by the president thereof, on or before the first day of August, 1901.

**Section 6.** All the property, assets, and effects of the present The Windsor Library Association shall become the property, assets, and effects of this corporation upon the acceptance of this resolution as herein provided.



**Section 7.** All devises and legacies to the existing association shall become payable to and the property of this corporation upon the acceptance of this resolution as herein provided.

**Section 8.** The town of Windsor may fix, by a by-law, an amount which shall be appropriated and paid annually by said town thereafter for the maintenance and increase of the library of said corporation, which library, during the whole of the time such payments are made, shall be free to the inhabitants of said town. If said town shall make an annual appropriation for this purpose, then the town may elect two persons each year for a term of three years (six in all) who, with a committee of the corporation, shall constitute a joint committee for conducting the library and reading room.

General Assembly  
January Session, A.D. 1955

**Section 9. (a)** The Windsor Library Association and its property, whether principal or income, shall be forever devoted to literary, educational, scientific, historical or charitable purposes. No officer, member or employee thereof shall receive any pecuniary profit from its operations except reasonable compensation for services in effecting one or more of its purposes or as a proper beneficiary of its strictly charitable purposes. In the event of the liquidation or dissolution of said corporation, all of its net assets, of whatever nature, shall be turned over to, and become vested in, The Town of Windsor, to be administered by an appropriate department or commission of said Town for literary, educational scientific, historical or charitable purposes. The estate, real, personal and mixed, of said corporation, including all income and its obligations, shall be exempt from taxation, except such real estate owned by it as may be leased or rented by it to others for a purpose not in furtherance of said corporation's purposes and objects.

**(b)** Any provision of said act inconsistent with this act is repealed.

## **A History of The Windsor Library Association**

**By Alleen F. Dike, 1979**

In the year of 1888 a group of interested citizens gathered in the home of Miss Martha Clapp to discuss the problem of a permanent and effective library for the Town of Windsor. In the past there had been attempts to provide facilities such as the Union Library Association (1800-1844) and the Windsor Book Club of Poquonock (1862-?) but both attempts were inactive in 1888. Those participating in the discussion of the enterprise at Miss Clapp's included Reverend F. W. Harriman, N. W. Hayden, Walter Loomis, and H. E. Sawyer. The result of this meeting was the formation of a subscription list of more than 120 persons - each of whom contributed at least one dollar. Later a meeting of the subscribers was held and the Windsor Library Association was organized - a committee of five was elected to manage its affairs. By 1889 the President reported an active organization of 74 members, 597 books in a room in the Old Town Hall, and \$210 in the Treasury.



By the year 1895 the number of books had increased to over 1,000. The State Library Commission recognized the library as the Windsor Free Public Library. During 1895 the Town of Windsor accepted the library as a town responsibility and agreed with the Association to donate \$200 toward the operation of the Library.

Following the agreement with the town, the Association took two vital steps to improve its effectiveness: the first was the incorporation of the Association by an act of the State Legislature in January 1901; the second was the purchase of the house at the south end of the Green - known as "The Mather House"

The acquisition of the Mather House was made possible through the donations of Miss Olivia Pierson and Miss Eliza Hills. The property originally consisted of a large house and a second small house - so close to the main house that it probably had been built for a relative. The two houses were later joined into one - the smaller one forming the main room of the library for many years, the rest of the house being rented for revenue for the Association.

Through many generous bequests, the Association has been able to further its objective of effective library service. One such bequest of \$25,000 from Ruel C. Tuttle in 1941 made it possible for the Association to convert and enlarge the Mather House into a library. Leland P. Wilson, a member of the Association from 1928-1957, stipulated in his will that his bequest to the Association be used for the construction of a library in the Wilson section of Windsor. That building was dedicated in 1965. Although the Association has no jurisdiction over the operation of the branch libraries, monies from smaller bequests have been channeled into improving the services of the branches in the Poquonock and Hayden sections of town.

Through the years the members of the Association have been chosen from town citizens who have evidenced a definite interest in the role of the library. According to the Association By-Laws, there are three types of memberships: (1) Active Membership - limited to thirty persons elected by Association members at any regular meeting. (2) Associate Membership - consisting of as many adult residents of town who express a desire to belong. They may participate in all discussions, without vote. Usually Active Members are chosen from the Associate Membership, and (3) Honorary Membership - consisting of Active Members who for reasons of age, health, etc. request this change in their status.

During the more than seventy years of the incorporated Association, the Town of Windsor has taken an ever-increasing interest in the library in the fields of both finances and library service. Through the work of the Joint Committee, made up of members elected by the Association and those appointed by the Town Council, Windsor residents have been able to enjoy continual improvement in library service.



The reward for hard work, and the fulfillment of hopes came when Windsor overwhelmingly approved a Bond Issue for a new library. In 1971 the Town Council passed an ordinance creating the Windsor Library Department and a nine-member Windsor Library Advisory Board. The department assumed responsibility for town library services and the duties of the Windsor Library Association and the Joint Committee were responsibility for town library services and the duties of the Windsor Library Association and the Joint Committee were phased out. The librarian, as head of the department, and members of the board are appointed by the Town Manager. The president of the Windsor Library Association is one of the nine members of the Advisory Board. On June 18, 1974 the Windsor Library Association deeded the Mather House and 1.5 acres of its land to the town. Windsor agreed to construct the new library on the site of the old, and to retain as much as possible of the old in the new. In addition, the Association gave \$150,000 to be used toward the purchase of furnishings. In October 1975 the Association gave \$1,000 to the Windsor Jaycee Wives for their campaign to raise funds to buy books for the library.

The new library was dedicated Sunday, May 16, 1976. It is not only a building of beauty which attracts many visitors, but it is a place of effective and expanding library services to which the Windsor Library Association continues to be a contributor to special projects as well as, a supportive influence for the betterment of library services throughout the town.

## **Addendum**

by Lorraine S. Ferrero, 1994

Since its dedication in 1976, the library has continued to flourish. Its physical beauty earned the honor of the Peoples' Choice Award in 1987, and the appeal of the building is only one aspect of its success. Circulation rates have risen continually as children's programs and cultural enrichment activities sponsored by the Library Association remain very popular. The Windsor Public Library is a popular destination for walkers, financial analysts, students, senior citizens, pre-schoolers, movie aficionados, and a vast array of curious clientele!

The addition of computers and technological devices such as the automated card catalog Connect, the Kids'Cat, and ReQuest characterize the timely progress of our library. Citizens have access to copy machines, computerized research facilities, a vast supply of videos, and the latest in printers. Those who cherish books still find themselves gratified and challenged by the volumes available.

The Windsor Library Association hopes to continue its tradition of enrichment through financial support of our wonderful public library as we walk through this decade toward the one hundredth anniversary of our founding Here's to 2001!



## Agreement as to The Wilson Memorial Library

The relationship of the Association and the Town of Windsor with regard to the Wilson Memorial Library, is that of landlord and tenant. The Association was given jurisdiction under Leland P. Wilson's will over building, outfitting and maintaining the Wilson Memorial Library. It pays from funds provided by his will or income therefrom for repairs and painting of the building and planting of the grounds. The Association provides the furnishings, carpet and shelving; keeps them in repair and insures its interest in them and in the building.

The town engages and pays all librarians and their assistants, persons to mow the lawn, clear walks and driveway, wash windows, change storm windows and screens in season and is responsible for all cleaning including that of rugs and draperies. It orders and pays for and owns all books, pamphlets, library files, typewriters, filing systems and supplies of all kinds and determines the disposition to be made of all books and reading material no longer needed. It pays all the electric and fuel bills; fire insurance on books, other reading material, equipment and furnishings owned by the town; any workmen's compensation insurance or other insurance covering the library operation and including liability insurance for the protection of the Association.

Approved for the Town of Windsor, October 23, 1979.

Al Iig  
Town Manager

Approved by the Executive Committee, June 11, 1979.

ATTEST:

Valerie Gange  
Secretary



# WINDSOR LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MAY, 1994

Regular members, in order of election to the association:

Warren Johnson  
Mary Ransom  
Margaret Loucks  
Walter Russell  
Gordon Ulmer  
Robert Morse  
Valerie Gange  
Eliot Williams  
Edward Rudolph  
Paul Sorbo  
Lucille Parker  
Gary Whitney  
Lorraine Ferrero  
Marie Bruhn  
Marcia Hinckley  
Alfred Bertoline  
William Chiodo  
Jane Grant  
Heidi Keisey  
Flora Dean  
Heather Renaud  
Judy Sears  
Eugene Aubrey  
Paul Monaco  
Murray Martin  
Lorna Luby  
Will Alexander

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Iola English  
Mary Barkal  
William Simon  
Donald Hopkins