Part III – Challenge to Library Materials

Dr. Sandor and Berthe Benedek Memorial Library: Challenge to Library Materials Policy

1. Dr. Sandor and Berthe Benedek Memorial Library supports all members of its community by collecting materials representing all viewpoints. However, it is not the role of the Benedek Memorial Library to advocate for or endorse any particular idea, opinion, or point of view; nor will the Benedek Memorial Library or any of its employees, volunteers, or trustees act *in loco parentis* (as a parent to library patron – either adult or minor). The Library attempts, in its collection, to meet the following criteria:

a. to acquire materials that reflect the Library’ Mission Statement;

b. to acquire materials appropriate to the Library’s Collection Development Policy;

c. to acquire materials that are indicative of the Library’s patron group.

2. The library subscribes to the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement and the Educational Film Library Associations’ Freedom to View State (see appendices) as a basis for their policy on challenged materials. The principal of freedom to read and view will be defended in all cases. If a patron challenges the appropriateness of a specific item in the library, he or she will be asked to file the complaint in writing (using the form that follows titled “Request for Reevaluation of Library Materials”). These forms are available upon request from the circulation desk and upon completion, should be delivered to the circulation desk, or mailed to Benedek Memorial Library in care of the Library Director. Upon receipt of the signed form, the Library Director will convene a committee with the President of the Board of Trustees and one other Trustee.

Within two weeks the committee shall:

1. Examine the material in question, the issues raised and the circumstances involved.

2. Make a decision to remove or retain the material in question.

3. Notify the American Library Association and the New York Library Association of any challenges.

The Benedek Memorial Library Director will respond in writing by certified mail to the patron within 10 days of the committee’s decision.

Should the patron wish to appeal the decision, he/she may write to the President of the Board of Trustees to request a hearing by the Board. The Board will complete a review of the issue within 90 days and respond to the patron as soon as may be possible after such review. Any further appeal must be made to the Commissioner of Education in Albany, N.Y.

Adopted by the Benedek Memorial Library Board of Trustees May 24, 2022.