

# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

## Emily Jean Mitchell – Candidate for Library Trustee

*Caucus Nominee*



### Events:

No events scheduled

### Contact information:

[Emily Mitchell's Facebook page](#)

## 2016 Citizen's Caucus Statement

I am announcing my candidacy for Library Trustee, and I ask for your support in the Town Election on March 12. Many thanks to Betsey Anderson for her kind introduction.

When I moved to Bedford in 2001, one of my first acts as a new resident was obtaining a library card. As my needs and interests have varied over the years, the Bedford Free Public Library has provided for me: from baby and toddler storytimes when my kids were little, to museum passes and book sales funded by the Friends, and now to a reliable alternative work space when I need it during the day.

I have spent my career in children's publishing, first as an editor and now as a literary agent, and therefore have a professional interest in the health and future of public libraries. Libraries are a great leveling and elevating force in society, bringing information freely and widely to all patrons, regardless of demographic, educational, or socioeconomic background. I strongly support the BFPL's commitment to intellectual freedom and equal service to all.

In the coming year, the BFPL will begin working on its next five-year strategic plan, as well as a redesign of its website, with particular emphasis on responsive and accessible design

for all patrons. These initiatives require a board that is forward-thinking, flexible, and detail-oriented, and I believe I have the necessary qualities to be a valuable asset to the trustees and staff.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have also been a BFPL employee: from 2001 to 2008, I served as a part-time circulation assistant. I believe this experience gives me additional insight into the strengths and challenges of the library, from the day-to-day concerns of front-line staff serving patrons to the broader issues of policies, budgets, and membership within the Minuteman Library Network consortium.

My volunteer experience includes seven years as a warden (lay leader) at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, part of which occurred during a clergy transition and interim period; fifteen years as a trustee of the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum Foundation, including four years as its president; and current board membership of the Bedford Citizen, Bedford Patrons of Music Students, and the Bedford Center for the Arts. I hold a bachelor's degree in English from Harvard, a master's in secondary English education from Syracuse, and an MBA from Babson.

I look forward to serving the needs and interests of the Bedford Free Public Library in whatever ways I can. I ask for your support tonight at the Town Caucus, and for your vote on March 12.