East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting
Wednesday January 7, 2026

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Meeting called to order 2:42pm

Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director

Director's Report

E Morgen informed the committee she is actively working on the budget for FY27. She has been informed that there is a flat 3% increase and expects that no additional funding will be available to the library system. She is preparing a zero budget. She is doing comparative studies with peer libraries and the CT State Library as well.

E Morgen stated that the FY26 budget is on target.

She shared concerns about the cost of heating and worries how this may carry forward into the FY27 budget.

Library usage continues to increase.

Library Program Updates

E Morgen described a program she is creating in conjunction with Joe Flood in commemoration of the Nation's semiquincentennial (250) to be presented in April. Mr Flood is partnering with the Moodus Fife and Drum director. This program will be held at the Grange, due to the anticipated large crowd gathering.

Also, Words from the Woods book group is meeting at St Stephens Church because of limited space at the Rathbun. This meeting is January 12, 2026 and is in partnership with the East Haddam Land Trust.

Another offering, also being held at the Grange due to lack of space at either library, and also in partnership with the East Haddam Land Trust is "Barberry, Mugwort and Bittersweet-Oh My!". This program is led by Jim Natalie of Wilder Gardens, January 13, 2026

February 14, 2026 a second Fire Cider workshop is being held at Rathbun from 11-12. This program was very popular.

On the Library website (easthaddamlibrarysystem.org), under the Calendar tab are offerings at both library locations. These include story times for infants to preschoolers, teen programs like game nights and book groups, children, teen and adult craft events, homeschool hangout, journaling workshops, and a STEAM program.

The East Haddam Art League also will host its meeting at the Rathbun January 14, 2026.

Old Business

M Mazur asked how the Public Relations Committee can support the Library with the activities listed above. E Morgen reiterated that informing the Trustees and asking for attendance to the events as well as possibly being greeters and generally just being present at the events.

New Business

Each committee member and the Library Director spent time reviewing the goals and guidelines, presented at the last meeting, for the Public Relations Committee and developed a working draft which was discussed in detail at this meeting. E Morgen prepared a list of 4 bullet points and the committee added 2 additional bullets. The final bullet added was that the committee will work with the Library Director to formulate a plan of action for crises and challenges that the Libraries might face.

It was discovered during the meeting that the Children's Librarian, Anastasia, has a teen advisory committee that helps make book suggestions, program suggestions, and also runs its own book club for teens. The committee asked E Morgen to invite Anastasia to our next meeting to introduce this teen advisory committee more fully.

M Mazur asked to review the surveys that were part of the original Library Study. E Morgen will bring these to the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 4:09pm

Next meeting February 11, 2026, 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary