Minutes
East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees
Thursday, February 12, 2026

Municipal Office Building
Meeting Room 3
6:30pm

I. Call to order by D Barlow @ 6:30pm

Trustees present: J Bielot, K McRae, L White, S Jezek, J Tyron Ranaudo, D Barlow, M Mazur-via phone

Others Present: E Morgen, EHLS Director

Approval of January 8, 2026 minutes accepted as submitted

III **Directors Report-**

E Morgen presented her report covering the success of a co-sponsored program about invasive plants with the East Haddam Land Trust at the Grange where over 40 people attended.

Additionally, the libraries are preparing for the Semiquincentennial (250) anniversary of our country. A program including Revolutionary Music of the 1700s is being held at the Grange with Joe Flood and a friend of his that is part of a fife and drum group, April 17, 2026. In conjunction with this program the libraries are participating in the town's intention to paint the town red, white and blue with buntings and streamers and such. E Morgen stresses to pay attention to the library calendar of events for many upcoming activities associated with the Semiquincentennial.

The 1000 books before kindergarten program is back up and running after a bit of a hiatus and some restructuring while the library sorted staffing.

This coming Wednesday February 18, 2026, the East Haddam Library System is on the agenda of the Board of Selectmen to discuss forming a building committee for the planning of the new library building.

E Morgen is meeting with the First Selectman's office February 24, 2026 to present the first draft of the FY27 budget. The budget remains as flat as possible with the exception of COLA and utilities expense and increasing prices for digital content. Also, E Morgen states the patron computers need to be replaced. They are now too old to update and need to be replaced.

FY26 budget remains on target with 56.9% of the $515,000 budget expended.

E Morgen stresses that the best method for the community to stay informed of library events is to visit the website calendar. easthaddamlibrarysystem.org Each library has their own color coded border on the event description. Blue for Moodus and Green for Rathbun.

The Children's librarian, Anastasia hosted 24 different programs for preschoolers, teens and teens as well as activities for homeschoolers.

IV Reports-

Finance Committee Report-

FY26 Budget expenses are on target.

There are no outstanding Grants, however E Morgen is researching potential grant opportunities, including some that the Town Clerk share some of a grant that covered archiving and was used for the Historical Room at the Rathbun

FY27 Budget is in preparation-concerns discussed above in Director's Report

E Morgen has been in contact with the town Finance Director regarding the salary line.

A review of the current Library System Manual is underway. Special Revenue Fund tracking has been somewhat jumbled with other funds and is mostly unable to clarify which money is donations, to which branch or to the system as a whole. J Bielot will be contacting the town Finance Director to see if there is a way to straighten this out.

Governance Committee Report-

The vacancy on the Trustees has been filled by B Barney

The calendar and seat assignments are finalized, excluding one seat. The Recording Secretary was assigned last month as a temporary appointment, the written record does not reflect this. Discussion that a motion be made under New Business to address this. A Corresponding Secretary motion is made by S Jezek, as she has filled this role until recently. The suggestion is moved to New Business.

Review of orientation process

EHLS Manual is almost complete and is anticipated to be presented at the February meeting

Public Relations Committee Report-

The orientation process will be worked on over the coming months

The annual manual review is complete. The Trustees will be voting at the February 12, 2026 meeting. J Tryon Ranado motioned to add this vote to **New Business**. L White 2nd

E Morgen presented the policy for Public Relations and Media process, which will also be voted on at the February Trustees meeting. J Tryon Ranado motioned to add this vote to **New Business**. L White 2nd

Friends Liasion Reports

i. **Friends of EHFPL-**

New chairs are being purchased for patrons as the older chairs are falling apart.

The spring book sale is not being held this year. The work involved is too great. The fall book sale will still happen.

The left over toys from Mrs Claus have been donated to the library to give as prizes to patrons in the children’s programming.

Local resident, Colleen Kelly Alexander has written a book about her extensive recovery after a debilitating accident. The library has purchased a copy, she will also be joining the Author Showcase.

The Author Showcase planning meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026 at 4pm at the Rathbun

ii. **Friends of Rathbun**

The Tanglewood Puppets are returning again this year with a performance of Arabian Adventures, March 8, 2026 at 2pm, at the Nathan Hale Ray High School Auditorium. M Mazur asked how the Friends and the Trustees can support this performance and it was suggested that a history of the puppets be taken on.

Book donations return Saturday February 14, 2026 with the Friends overseeing donations for quality. This is the newest policy and includes only accepting donations one time per month.

The Silhouette Lady is a popular event that happens at Mother's Day time. The Friends are trying to book this again for this year.

A new pass for the Hillsted Museum in Farmington, CT is being purchased in April. The pass is good for a calendar year.

V. Unfinished Business

A. FY26 budget discussed above

VI. New Business

The Board of Selectmen meeting February 18, 2026 is discussed as to whom shall speak and for how long we might have to present in general.

D Barlow will speak on the 20+ year history of this planning process to build a new single library.

S Jezek will speak on the combining of the two libraries into one.

M Sullivan will speak on the role of the study committee

J Bielot will speak to the budget impacts of two libraries.

E Morgen will speak to the why of a new library and the look of what this new building could be.

Public Relations will speak to the public responses in the survey

Manual Review updates approval. J Tryon Ranado motioned to accept the updates, K McRae 2nd

Public Relations Policy update approval. L White motioned to accept the update, S Jezek 2nd

VII. Audience of Citizens-none

VIII. Adjournment- 7:36pm

Respectfully submitted L White