Minutes
East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees
Thursday, March 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,
Others Present: E Morgen, EHLS Director, T Sevigney, Selectman Liaison
Approval of February 12, 2026 minutes accepted as submitted
Approval of February 26, 2026 Special Meeting minutes accepted as submitted

III Directors Report-

E Morgen presented the draft of the Charge she developed with the support of M Sullivan, consultant and T Sevigney, Selectman and Library Liaison. This will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the March 18, 2026 meeting. E Morgen reports the FY 26-26 Budget is on target and that she presented the FY27 Budget to the Board of Selectmen with no conflict and will be presenting it to the TriBoard this Saturday, March 14, 2026. E Morgen also reports that the name for the upcoming 250th celebration event with Joe Flood and the CT Valley Field Music, Fife and Drum Corp will be called *When American Music Became American*. E Morgen distributed an up to date contact list for Trustees.

Item V.d. moved up to Director's Report for discussion and vote on the Charge for the New Library Exploratory Committee. Motion to accept the draft charge as written-LWhite, 2nd SJezek. The draft was accepted as presented unanimously. Discussion as to whom will present to the BOS, E Morgen will present, other Library trustees can be in attendance to speak as needed.

IV Reports

Finance Committee Report-

The current FY25-26 budget is moving along without issue, the expenses out of the control of management, like heating will be addressed as needed going forward. FY27-28 Budget presentation to the BOS was successful as the less than 3% increase was seen positively. There is a Grant from the Community Foundation available. E Morgen is working on this and it is due April 2, 2026. If this application isn't successful, E Morgen plans to approach the Riverview Cemetery group to ask for the funds to cover new patron computers. Pricing will be negotiated through the municipality rather than through direct purchase. This provides a better rate of purchase.

Governance Committee Report-

Did not meet

Public Relations Committee Report-

Report of the success with the BOS meeting February 18, 2026. Report of the name change for the study committee to The New Library Exploratory Committee. Report of the Charge to this new committee was discussed and agreed to move forward to the full trustees for approval. Partnership program with the East Haddam Land Trust and Machimoodus State Park for Earth Day announced, the Library will participate somehow

in this event, perhaps flyers at the Libraries. Report of how the PR committee will provide snacks to the 250th celebration with cookies and cider. Recently Yankee Magazine wrote a story ranking the area and East Haddam came in #12. Plans for PR Committee to write up a story for the newspaper about this. Also, report to the Trustees that PR will be writing and publishing reminders of events upcoming and dates to remember in relation to Library activities with approval by the PR Chair and Library Director. Articles and stories with greater detailed content will still come through the full board for approval.

Friends Liasion Reports

i. **Friends of EHFPL-**Did not meet

ii. **Friends of Rathbun-**

The Tanglewood Puppets were a great success. Partnering with the school system and Parks and Rec to help advertise brought in the largest crowd yet with 65-70 attendees. The friends groups are co-sponsoring the 250th event. The BOS wants all activities self funded, without the use of taxes. The Silhouette Lady is returning April 18, 2026. This program is wildly popular and has had waiting lists in the past. Reminders that book donations will be accepted on the 2nd Saturday of the month only,at the Rathbun by the Friends from 10-12. The summer reading program for adults will continue this year. There will be prizes awarded. The summer reading program for students has been discussed and planned with the school librarians, food, nutrition, growing food and such is the subject this year.

iii. **Corresponding Secretary-**

One Thank You was received as a result of a Get Well card given to a Trustee.

V. Unfinished Business

a.FY26 budget discussed above

b.FY27 budget discussed above

c. New Library Facility

See discussion above as well as, D Barlow asked that ideas and suggestions for the new library be kept in order and presented to the Exploratory committee and building committee going forward. J Tryon Ranaudo suggested something to keep track of these in our Google Drive folders, J Bielot suggested excel sheets, L White and S Jezek express concern and desire to keep the painting of the Alice in Wonderland scene from the Children's Room at the Rathbun be saved and moved to the new building. E Morgen states there are many ways of preserving digitally, it is on plaster. Plaster can be cut and moved. Further exploration will be handled by the committees assigned to the Exploratory and the future building committee. Suggestions for raising funds through selling off of Library memorabilia, setting paving stones as a patio with donation patrons names at the New Library, offering rooms to be named for significant donations was also suggested.

VI. New Business-none

VII. Audience of Citizens-none

VIII. Adjournment- 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted L White