East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting
Wednesday April 1, 2026

Meeting called to order 2:48pm

Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director
Approval of March 4, 2026 minutes accepted
Director's Report

E Morgen reports the very positive community response from the presentations the Library trustees have given to the Board of Selectmen in preparation for the anticipated Exploratory Committee formation approval. She reiterated T Gelston's support with his email following the East Haddam Land Trust Award from CCLC in conjunction with the EHLS as being good to show increasing positivity toward the new library building.
Also, E Morgen has met again with the Selectmen to be informed there will be budget cuts again this year and they will impact all departments, including the library. E Morgen has assessed where preliminary cuts can be made.

Library Program Updates

Patrons are always encouraged to visit the EHLS website for a complete and updated calendar of events. eathaddamlibrarysystem.org There are recurring events as well as specialty events listed for both locations. Upcoming highlights include a newly formed second book club with the East Haddam Land Trust for younger readers and the upcoming celebration for the Semiquincentennial at the Grange, in partnership with Joe Flood and Dr Jim Clark of the CT Valley Field Music Fife and Drum Corp, called *When American Music Became American-The Birth of American Music in the 1800s.* This program is sponsored by the Friends groups and Trustees will be supporting this with assistance to set up and snacks.
Also the EH Land Trust has partnered for reading events over Earth Day month, April 1-25, 2026. The Land Trust has provided a book list for readers in grades K-8 as well as a book discussion for children ages 10+ on April 21, 2026. The theme of this program is called Words From the Earth-Young Readers Edition. Please see the website for complete information.
The Silhouette Lady returns for a third time on April 18, 2026. Registration is recommended for this very popular event. Please visit the website to register.

Old Business

Community Invitations/Opportunities and Upcoming Events and participation

As mentioned above, the libraries partner with many community organizations repeatedly. The East Haddam Land Trust, The Arts League, The Fife and Drum program coming up.

Yankee Magazine's most recent issue ranked East Haddam #12 in New England. PR will work on an article for the newspaper and social media postings. This was mentioned again, no action taken yet.

M Mazur has decided which cookie she will make for the Semiquincentennial, L White has not decided yet.

New Business

ctconservation.org **CLCC** Ct Land Conservation recent award to the EH Land Trust partnership with the EHLS. This has opened doors to more programming and library participation. E Morgen states that a master gardener from the EH Land Trust is interested in beginning a seed library, and offering to help patrons understand plants and planting with a table set up at one of the locations, perhaps on the weekend, to plant seeds and answer garden related questions.

A Path Forward messaging campaign-the subcommittee is reminded that we have permission to promote the libraries and push reminders as well as brief announcements to the newspaper and social media to keep the New Library concept alive in the community's minds. The next opportunity is when the Board of Selectmen announce the New Library Exploratory Committee appointment, at the April 1, 2026 BOS Meeting. If the BOS give the approval, we will then post a brief statement to the EH News.

E Morgen has drafted a Letter to the Editor for the EH News announcing the Semiquincentennial at the grange

The New Library Exploratory Committee discussions have lead to agreement that a PR member should sit on the Exploratory Committee. L White was contacted by the Selectmen's office to ask if she was applying to the committee. L White will follow up with the Selectmen's office to fill out the application for consideration.

Governance has reviewed the Public Relations and Media Policy needed for the annual manual review for the trustees and one change was brought forward to the Trustees full board. This change was approved at the full board meeting March 12, 2026 and is now before the Public Relations Committee to authorize this single change. Under the section ***Emergency Situations-***the change to language stated: the Director or his/her designee will inform the staff what is to be said//will now read:*the Library Director or his/her designee will provide the staff with talking points*

M Mazur asks how the libraries can be more involved with the Historical Museum, E Morgen says she will talk to the Children's librarian.

Meeting Adjourned 3:56pm

Next meeting May 6, 2026 2:30pm at the Rathbun Library

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary