EAST HADDAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2026

1. Meeting called to order by D Barlow at 6:31 PM

   Trustees present: D Barlow, J Bielot, Shea Jezek, K McRae

   J Ranaudo, L White, W Barney

   Also present: E Morgen. Library System Director; T Sevegny, Board of Selectmen

2. Minutes of Trustee's meeting of March 12, 2026 accepted as presented
3. Directors Report
   E Morgen reported that responding to a request of the Board of Selectmen that all government agencies reduce the amount requested for the 2026=27. The Library System was asked to cut it's request by $6,000.00. After due consideration and seeking to minimize the impact on library operations, $2,000. was cut from the book account, $2,000, from the supply account. and $2,000. from the Intern account .After listening to the explanation from E Morgen, the Trustees agreed that these cuts were reasonable. E Morgen reported that at the three quarter mark of the fiscal year, the budget was tracking properly with 72% expended. The proposal to form an exploratory Committee to develop plans for a new library facility has been greeted with overwhelming support from the community and the proposal has also received strong support from the local media. The various program presented by the Library System have been well received and attended. To begin East Haddam's participation in the 250th anniversary 0f the founding of the United States, the Library System will be offering a program celebrating American music of the period. The libraries will join with other community and governmental agencies to celebrate Earth Week. Plans are being finalized.
4. Reports
   a. L White/J Ranaudo moved to have the Selectman's remarks to the beginning of the reports section of the agenda. Approved 7-0-0
   b. T Sevegny discussed the 2026-27 budget and the rationale behind the actions taken by the Board of Selectmen to minimize the tax rate. He also spoke about the Library Study Committee and that the formation of the Committee has been delayed because there were not enough Republican or Unaffiliated voters volunteering to meet the State minority representation statute. Trustees said that they would reach out to find appropriate candidates.
   c. D Barlow reported on the Finance Subcommittee meeting. She reiterated what the Library Director and Selectman said about adjustments to on the 2026-27 proposed budget. She repeated that the 2025-26 was performing as expected. The Middlesex County Community grant in this cycle was not appropriate for the Libraries. There will be another opportunity to apply in the Fall. The Rathbun Library is the recipient of a $10,000. Bequest. Details will be reported next month.

d. J Ranaudo said that the annual evaluations of the Library System Director and of the Trustees will occur within the next month.
e. The Public Relations Subcommittee stated that there was a conflict with a program at First Church and the Library Systems 250 Music Celebration. No resolution is available and both programs will go on as scheduled. A review of upcoming programs was presented. It reflected what the Director had stated.
f. K McCrea reported on activities of the Friends groups. The authors event is being planned, but the Groups are looking to change the format and add additional events. A drawing of some sort is being considered as well as a passport idea. Details at the next meeting
g. There was no report from the Corresponding Secretary

5. Unfinished Business
   a. Items relating to the 2025-26 budget and the proposed 2026-27 were covered in the Library Directors report above, the Selectman's report above and the Finance Subcommittee report above. Issues related to the new Library Facility and the Exploratory New Library Building Committee were also covered in the previously cited reports.
6. New Business
   a. There was a lengthy discussion about the process to place information in the media between Trustee meetings. Ultimately, it was decided that E Morgen and D Barlow and J Bielot would handle and approve such media releases.
   b. After a discussion, it was decided that under the agenda format being used, the Selectman's remarks would be included in the REPORTS section.
7. There was no Audience of Citizens
8. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM

Submitted by W Barney, Secretary