Meeting Minutes

EAST HADDAM LIBRARY SYSTEM

**April 8, 2021**

Location: On-line Meeting

6:30 PM

Mission Statement: "The East Haddam Public Library System seeks to enrich lives by helping to build communities of lifelong learners. The system provides access to historical collections, offers materials in print and digital formats, and gives community members opportunities to share in public discussion"

**Trustees Present**: Dawn Barlow, John Bielot, Chris van Valkenburg, Jane Chisholm, Juliana Tryon Ranaudo, Bill Barney, Vicky Riley Pach
**Absent:** Janine Broe. Chris Delisle
**Also Present:** Michael Gilroy, Library Director

1. Call to order
   The meeting was called to order of D Barlow at 6:31 PM.
2. Review Minutes from March 11, 2021 meeting
   Minutes were accepted as submitted.
3. Reports:
   a. Director's Report: (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OgYoFM_ci9NVrJeHZxrf_hi1x-06yh-lZvWdEUMDCz8/edit?usp=sharing )
      Most of our staff members have received at least the first does of the vaccine. No in-person programs are currently being planned. The Chatham Health District Libraries are meeting again in early May to discuss potential changes to our current protocols. We are working with the East Haddam Fire Department to place automated external defibrillator (AED) units in both libraries and to provide staff with training on their use. Upcoming programs are planned for Jazz!. Needle Felting, and Outdoor Art. Children's book giveaway is being planned (more information next month utilizing PeachPit Grant). Both staff members who have been on leave will be returning by next week. Budget proposal has no alterations to date. An ALA grant was submitted on "Community Conversations for Small & Rural Libraries" and is currently being reviewed, and the winners will be announced shortly. When publishers (cease publication of books (such as Dr. Seuss Enterprises decision), it is not considered a censorship ('book banning') issue; the books in question are not high high-interest, high-circulating, or high-selling titles. ALA guidance indicates that libraries will naturally address such titles through routine collection maintenance.
   b. Subcommittee Reports
      i. Finance Committee: Waiting to hear when BOF will take up budget; special revenue accounts (totally ~$5,000) was reviewed: suggest some funds should be dispersal through Friends groups, including adding (~$1500) to the Sue Barnes Memorial gift, specifically for EHFPL; $135 remaining for an Historical project TBD, possibly the Historic Room.
      ii. Governance Committee: Did not meet in the past month.
      iii. Programming Committee: Did not meet in the past month.
4. Unfinished Business
   a. Library Covid-19 Update: See Directors Report, above.
   b. Proposed 2021-2022 Budget: See Finance Committee Report, and Director's Report, above.
   c. ALA Rural Communities grant: Michael will update when information is available.
   d. Library Board 2019 Effectiveness and 2021 "Year of Recovery" Goals
      i. Support town in creating a plan to address current needs and future development of the EHLS: M Gilroy will invite John Harvey (town liaison representative) to the May Board of Trustees Meeting
      ii. Community Involvement: a major component of the ALA Grant is community 'conversation', which might be supplemented by a community survey. Discussion of what does 'community involvement' mean? Suggestion that it is relating to the community in a way that makes them believe they are part of the library, and have ownership of the library. It also includes Library outreach: going out and being visible where the community gathers. It's not just the books and the building. It includes providing the town residents with reliable high quality information, and dependable assistance in how to find it; as a go to

resource for questions and how they can be answered. It may include being a central location for community interaction, especially for a community so geographically diverse as East Haddam.

iii. New Ways to provide Library Services: See ii, above.

iv. Become more effective Trustees: See ii, above.

5. New Business:

   a. Review of National, State and Local Policies regarding Controversial Literature: See Director's Report item VI C and VII (link above). See also' ALA Freedom to Read' statement in Trustees Manual. A standard form, originating from the ALA, is available at the desk of both libraries for use by any patron to submit any concerns regarding any library book. It has yet to be used. EHLS policy, and was reviewed, which includes bringing all reported concerns to the Board of Trustees. Governance Committee will review the Board of Trustees Manual and provide, at the May BOT meeting, a proposal for any changes recommended for the Manual.

6. Audience of Citizens

   No citizen input was received.

7. Adjournment without objection at 7:30 PM.

   The next Meeting will be on May 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM, to be held at Rathbun and by ZOOM online.