Minutes
East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees
Thursday, June 11, 2026
**Municipal Office Building**
**Meeting Room 3**
**6:30pm**

I Call to order by D Barlow @ 6:33pm

Trustees present: J Bielot, K McRae, L White, S Jezek, D Barlow, M Mazur, W Barney arrived at 6:45pm
Others Present: E Morgen, EHLS Director

**II** **Approval of May 14, 2026 minutes** accepted with changes as follows: Motion K. McRae, 2nd L. White
On Page 2, item d.i., the words good and truckes, should read food trucks and the typed in 3:L00, should read 3:00.
On page 2, item c, should NOT read that M Mazur reported that the Subcommittee did not meet this month. This correction was sent to W Barney, Secretary along with a copy of the minutes for the May 6, 2026 Public Relations Subcommittee

**III** **Directors Repor**t

E Morgen reports a very busy month already. The New Library Exploratory Committee(NLEC) has met twice this month. She states sadness and concern about the proposed loss of our two beautiful, old buildings. She reminds the committee and the community that out of 237 libraries in the State of Connecticut, 3 are non-ADA compliant and East Haddam/Moodus have 2 or these 3. She reports that the NLEC is determined to garner community feedback and present as transparently as possible.

The FY 25-26 Budget is on track to finish within the approved budget parameters and that the FY 26-27 Budget will begin on July 1, 2026.

The Library Director also reports that the many community organization collaborations continue. Partnership with the East Haddam Land Trust has resulted in building the patron base at the libraries as well. The preparations for the celebration of our nation's semiquincentennial are continuing. There is a need for volunteers for these preparations as well as help needed on the day of the grand event, July 11, 2026. The libraries are managing both the Old Town Hall and the Grange buildings and will need support there. Decorations for this season-long celebration continue to increase. The Rathbun has help from Public Works to hang bunting on the windows.

E Morgen shared the Children's Librarian report as well. In the month of May 20 different programs for ages 0-18 were offered and totalled about 121 participants. She shared that having as many successful teen programs as the library system has, is remarkable. Partnerships with Moodus Kindercare and the Elementary School reflect the continued desire to build connectivity in the community. And the 1,000 Books program is continuing to attract new readers.

**IV Selectman's Liaison Report-**

Selectman T Sevigny was unavailable

**V. Reports**

a. Finance Subcommittee – D Barlow reported that the 2025-26 is tracking as expected. There are no issues or concerns at this time.

b. Governance Subcommittee – S Jezek reported that the Orientation Program is on hold while the Subcommittee continues to discuss and refine the Program. She asked that all Trustees complete the Executive Director evaluation and the Trustees Self Evaluation as soon as possible.

c. Public Relations Subcommittee – M Mazur reported on the previous discussion about writing and submitting articles to the media. Part of the present discussion regarding whether a release was on behalf of the Board of Trustees or one's own views, and should the release provide a differentiation. The consensus seem to be that a differentiation should be noted. The Subcommittee is considering as number of outreach programs, and topics for future programs. There was a discussion about meeting during July and August due to members not be available for meeting. It was decided that each Subcommittee will make its own decision regarding Summer meeting and report any changes to the Town Clerk.

d. Friends Liaisons – K McRae reported on the progress of the Fall Book Sale. A raffle is being developed whereby a buyer would get a ticket for each purchase. The prizes would be items from local merchants. She further reported on the book sale drop off and the need for people to help with transferring book to the Grange Hall. She reported on the Summer Reading programs for younger children. It will be held during July and August. A new museum pass has been purchased for use at the Slater Museum at Norwich Free Academy.

e. Corresponding Secretary – S Jezek reported no activity.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

a. The status of the 2025-=26 budget was covered in the Finance Subcommittee Report
b. There was nothing to report relative to the 2026-27 budget
c. The New Library Exploratory Building Committee reported that their last meeting was excellent and quite productive. The Committee is looking at different outreach methods to bring the work of the Committee to the community. They feel that they have developed an excellent model for moving forward.
d. The Public Relations and Media Policy was reviewed. It was decided that went submitting media releases, a differentiation should be identified between Trustee releases and those done by individual Trustees. Voting on the policy will occur at the July meeting of the Trustees.
e. Motion by J Bielot/M Mazur to authorize Subcommittee to cancel Summer monthly meeting as deemed appropriate. Approved 7-0-0. Motion by L Whie/K McRae to cancel the July Trustee meeting as approved 7-0-0.
f. A letter from the Eight Mile River Watershed Committee was reviewed. It is seeking Library Trustee attendance at a Community Feedback program. E Morgen will attend and several Trustees indicated that they would also seek to attend. Events sponsored by the EH Land Trust and Sustainability Committee were announced.

**VII. New Business**

a. There was no New Business

**VIII. Adjournment**

a. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM

Submitted by L White and W Barney