Meeting Minutes

EAST HADDAM LIBRARY SYSTEM

June 10, 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, Janine Broe,
Absent: Chris Delisle, Vicky Riley Pach
Also Present: Michael Gilroy, Library Director

1. Call to order
   The meeting was called to order of D Barlow at 6:33 PM.
2. Review Minutes from May 13, 2021 meeting
   Minutes were accepted as submitted.
3. Reports:
   a. Director's Report: (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pUnhFQlHMmnXcSAXX14dPqnPvipZnPL81KNJlysh1tE/edit?usp=sharing);
      i. Buildings: 13 new bookshelves were added in the AHFPL children's area (thanks to Eagle Scout Arlo Matthews);
      ii. Programs: Packets of free reading books are available in both libraries for children (patrons under 18) supported by the Peach Pit grant;
      iii. Budget: the proposed budget was defeated at referendum (8 June 2021); plans for next steps were discussed at the subsequent Board of Finance meeting (https://youtu.be/yng6lhcQcMI?t=4410), possibly including Budget Workshop Monday June 14th at 7 PM at the Municipal Office Workshop, Town hearing (13 July), Town Meeting (27 July), and Town Budget Referendum (10 Aug). Library budget cuts are possible, and the proposed salary adjustments for the library staff may be in jeopardy (14 of the 20 proposed raises, covered in the town's defeated budget proposal, were for valued library staff).
      iv. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant: the BOF approved the submission of the proposed $16,000 ARPA grant; it can be submitted by the 18 June if endorsed by the BOT and the BOS. (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s8OAIWbcGWoMOo7V-dbLqAdmCu13MFOq/view?usp=sharing)
   b. Subcommittee Reports
      i. Finance Committee: Meeting was held 7 June 2021 and included discussion of:
         a. negative comments that have been raised publicly regarding the proposed town budget, which included salary increase for some library staff. If defeated (as subsequently was the case), discussion at this meeting indicated that BOT and our subcommittees will have to discuss adjustments that can be made;
         b. this year's budget is on track, with no issues for the remaining several weeks;
         c. the proposed ARPA grant to be submitted to the BOF on 8 June (post meeting note: grant endorsed by BOF), including plans for Outdoor Wi-Fi Garden and other tech upgrades (see item 3.a.iv above for link to proposed grant);
         d. goals for the Finance committee in 2021-22; these include: EHLS funding, getting Library Building Feasibility Committee appointed, programs to inform the public of Library value and issues (current buildings inadequate), invitation will be extended to BOF liaison, H Thomas, to attend a BOT meeting.
      ii. Governance Committee: Did not meet in the past month.
      iii. Programming Committee: Did not meet in the past month.
4. Unfinished Business
   a. ARPA Grant: details described by M Gilroy will enhance safety (creating Wi-Fi Garden for outdoor technology use; also indoor technology (Owl) to enhance programs for online patrons (360 degree visual of room during presentations). C van Valkenburg made a motion to add an Agenda item under new business, to vote on

endorsing the proposed ARPA Grant; J Broe seconded, motion passed 7:0;0.

b. Library Covid-19 Update: Changes to Restrictions: M Gilroy will clarify whether the town requires masks on town property (including library).

c. Proposed 2021-2022 Budget: defeated by vote: (and Section 3.a.iii, above), BOT will advocate for the Library budget, especially the proposed salary increases, at the 14 June Workshop. The value of the town's investment in the Libraries should be made clear, especially the dedication of the staff and their accomplishments staying open, and safe during the past difficult (and dangerous) year.

d. ALA Rural Communities grant: work is progressing, M Gilroy is talking with businesses etc for input; discussion session will be planned for September 2021.

e. 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: BOT should be prepared to make progress with whatever new committee is formed for developing plans for a new library building, as recommended in the Library Board Facilities Planning Committee Report (https://www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org/resources/).

   ii. Community Involvement: Grants will enhance involvement (see item 3.a.iv, 4.a, and 4.d, above).

   iii. New Ways to provide Library Services: Grants will provide new ways to offer services (see item 3.a.iv, 4.a, and 4.d, above).

   iv. Become more effective Trustees: Advocate more effectively for the Library and its value to the town; 3 BOT positions will be open on the BOT in the upcoming November election.

5. New Business:

   a. B Barney moved to approve the ARPA grant as submitted by the Director. The motion was seconded by J Ranaudo and passed 7:0:0.

6. Audience of Citizens

   No citizen input was received.

7. Adjournment without objection at 7:35 PM.

   The next Meeting will be on 8 July 2021, at 6:30 PM, to be held at Rathbun and by ZOOM online.
   https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_esgevce4RHRf-pRjXI7VzDIHbXa0qB2

   These minutes are posted on the EHLS Board of Trustees site:
   https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FSN8D7cman5FdKlv14z5g_ItFvIIVJRW.