EHLS Board of Trustees Minutes

April 14, 2022

EHFPL 6:30pm

Present: Chris vanValkenburg, Dawn Barlow, Juliana Ranudo. Chris DeLisle, John Bielot,

Absent: Bill Barney, Janine Broe, Alice Hinchcliff

Guest: Michael Gilroy, Mary Mazur

I. Call to order: 6:32p
II. Meeting Minutes from 10Mar2022 were approved as is without objection.
III. Reports:
    a. Director's Report: Mike stated that March was the month of transition where more than half of the programs began to meet in person; Program highlights include 1000 Books Before Kindergarten has 50 kids participating; Tween/teen D&D has 20 participants; EHLS purchased 48 mini canvas' for each library and gave them all away within the week. The Mini art display will start on May 2. Passport to CT Libraries has begun. Budget has been resubmitted.
    b. Committee Reports:
        i. Finance: New Dates regarding the budget are April 26 7pm Public Hearing at NHRHS; May 10 Annual Town Budget Meeting; Tues May 24 Referendum. Library task force will be discussed after the referendum. Reading Room Association will contribute $8350 for the 1st Quarter which is over than planned.
        ii. Program: New databases are live with Niche Academy with tutorials; Community Conversation original date was Sat Apr 30 is now changed to Thursday May 19 at 6:30pm.
        iii. Governance: Although agendas and minutes are sent to the town, it has not been reliable that they are posted. Links to the EHLS Google Drive for agendas and minutes will be available. Application has been filled out for the BOT open vacancy but there seems to be some misunderstanding on what is needed to be done. It will get straightened out soon. May BOT meeting will be at EHFPL, and June BOT will be at Rathbun.
IV. Unfinished Business
    a. Budget Updates: New dates listed under Finance.
    b. Grants
        i. American Rescue Plan Act Grant from the Connecticut State Library: Picnic tables were purchased, however, the hardware is missing. Gazebo type roof structures were purchased to put over the tables at both Rathbun and EHFPL. Since Rathbun is a historical building will need to be approved. That meeting is April 19 at 7:30pm. WIFI extenders are also being purchased.
    c. Library Board Goals
        i. Support town in creating a plan to address current needs and future development of the EHLC Library Task Force. Will need to get the word out for May 19 Community

Conversation meeting. Phil Barlow is willing to come speak to the group regarding new libraries and what has been wanted/needed in his experience as landscape architecture

ii. Improve efforts to reach the underserved populations. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Book Clubs and other programs after work hours including Saturday Morning Story time are some of the ways we are reaching out.

iii. Become more effective Trustees: Trustees should make regular visits to the town libraries and attend some of the programs. Add comments or repost comments on social media will also help promote our programs. It was suggested that we discuss the various roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and the sub-committees

d. Call for unfinished business: None

V. New Business: Reminder to go to Rathbun and see the East Haddam Art League display

VI. Audience of Citizens: Mary Mazur has offered to help Mike come up with some ideas for more programs

VII. Meeting adjourned without objection at 7:15pm