East Haddam Library System

Board of Trustees

Minutes to Meeting of February 8, 2024

I. Meeting called to order by D Barlow 6:32pm
   a. Trustees present: D Barlow, J Ranaudo, J Bielot, C vanValkenburg, W Barney, S Jezek, M Mazur
   b. Also present: K McRae, FOEHFPL

II. Minutes of January 11, 2024, accepted as presented.

III. Library Director's Report –In absence of the interim director, L Prichard, co-chair D Barlow went over the report. The budget was sent to the town on Jan 16. 4 out of 10 Library Director applicants are in 2nd round of interviews. Trustee W Barney and interim Library Director attended the CFMC Grant and Volunteer Reception. The Ray Board has officially approved the funds for an intern. A thank-you note will be sent from the trustees to Tim Cahill.

IV. Committee Reports
   a. Finance Committee Report – The committee reviewed the budget. THE ARSL grant application for $1,000 which is to be used to start the "Library of Things" was delayed because it was not passed through the Board of Finance Authorization system. That has been corrected and the application filed. There will be a budget workshop with the Board of Selectman on February 21 at 2:15pm.
   b. Governance Committee Report – did not meet in February. However, want to remind everyone on the process of submitting agendas and minutes. Please email documents to K Klinck and L Zemienieski. You cannot have an official meeting without posting the agenda at least 24 hours ahead of time. If dates and times of meetings need to be changed the board needs to vote on it. Changes need to be sent to the town as well so they can post it for public knowledge.
   c. Development Committee Report – did not meet in February. The committee did receive a thank-you note from past library director A Murphy. M Mazur attended Friends of Rathbun. It was reported the $5000 grant received was used to purchase 100 Wonderbooks. Members of the group will attend the puppet show Hansel & Gretal at East Lyme Public Library. Want to spread the word on passes the EHLS offer. Will have Yoga and Meditation event that will be recorded.

V. Unfinished Business
   A. Internship Program – was covered under the director's report.
   B. CLC Strategic Planning Cohort-Develop Strategic Plan Committee:
      a. The library is a Community Hub that is a welcoming and inclusive space. C vanValkenburg attended FOEHFPL and asked about temporary ramp for EHFPL. It has been researched but is not feasible at this time.
      b. The library will extend partnerships and community connections. Start to think about having the Library Director attend community meetings to present the need for a new library. The library receives donations from several community clubs and maybe the library can put those funds towards advocating for a new

library with publicity like the Land Trust does. Examples that could be done Bullet point flyer with links to the Study Committee Reports.

C. ACLB Membership- Will send an application to Interim Director once she is back from vacation.

VI. New Business

a. 2024-25 Budget – was sent to the town.

b. Program Committee Calendar. W Barney made a motion to add a vote to the program committee calendar. It was 2nd by J Bielot. The new meeting dates will be:
April 3
May 1
August 7
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4
The March 3 meeting will be a special meeting. All were in favor with no further discussion.

c. W Barney made a motion to add Culture as an item. C vanValkenburg 2nd. All in favor so added under new business. It was discussed that banning of books has made the news recently and will affect all libraries and we need to be aware of the policies etc.

VII. Audience of Citizens: K McRae from FOEHFPL attended. She is liking the collaboration between the Friends Groups and BOT

VIII. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by C vanValkenburg, Secretary.