

## Minutes

### East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees

Thursday, May 8, 2025

### Municipal Office Building Meeting Room 3

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.

- I. Call to Order by D Barlow @ 6:30pm
  - a. Trustees present: J Bielot, L White, K McRae, S Jezek, J Tryon Ranaudo, D Barlow, C vanValkenburg, M Mazur (via phone)
  - b. Others present: E Morgen EHLS Director, M Sullivan Guest Speaker
- II. Approval of April 10, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.
- III. Guest Speaker – Maureen Sullivan IMLS Cuts to State Library:
  - a. CT was 1 of 3 states where IMLS funding was going to end immediately but it was decided funding will continue in CT until FY26 (July 1<sup>st</sup>). No funding for IMLS in current FY26 proposed federal budget.
  - b. There are different patterns for where allocation should be based on what the State Library directors think.
  - c. The funding for the EHLS libraries comes from Town funds, endowments, and Friends donations. None from Federal funds.
  - d. E Morgen stated currently not using any Federal grants. However, if IMLS funds cut will affect CT State Library's Connecticut which provides transportation for books to and from libraries that are not part of the LION consortium. The grants for new library construction from the CT State Library are from state-bonded money, so not Federal.
  - e. What are the ramifications of these cuts? professional development programs may be affected, and the Library Service Center in Middletown may be affected and Connecticut as noted above.
  - f. What is the sum that usually goes from IMLS to CT State Library? Around \$2,000,000
  - g. What actions can the BOT take? Best strategy is to prepare and create talking points such as letters from the trustees to congress stating how important the library systems are.
- IV. Directors Report -
  - a. Budget referendum is May 27. At budget hearings it was stated they may add a question to ask if you vote NO was it because budget was too high or too low. Library budget has not changed since it was presented in January.
  - b. Community Conversation had their final meeting with Justice Dept Facilitators and planning community events to start having cross-cultural communications. The committee asked if the library could be used for future meetings, however, E Morgen

had to say no due to # of members and immobility issues. This does show what a central and welcoming asset a New Library could be in this community.

- c. There are events coming up from both Friends groups. More information under their sections of the minutes.
- d. The Words from the Woods book circle is welcoming new members and have moved the meetings to St Stephen's church due to size.
- e. Goodspeed Opera House offering their popular "Goodspeed Good Neighbor" program providing vouchers for unsold tickets to that week's performance.
- f. Vignettes about happy patrons: Nesting Balls provided by Middlesex Foundation where patrons could fill out a raffle coupon and a child was very excited that she won one and couldn't wait to hang in her yard; Another patron studying for the MCATS is very grateful to have the space to study because it is too noisy at home.

V. Reports:

- a. Finance Committee Report – did not meet in May.
- b. Governance Committee Report – Met May 1
  - i. There are three 6-year terms & one 2-year term on the ballot. Only 2 seats may be filled by Democratic candidates.
  - ii. Annual Director Review will be sent to the board in May for review with the director in June.
  - iii. E Morgen reported the staff evaluations are in progress and going well
  - iv. The annual BOT manual review will commence in July.
- c. Public Relations Committee Report – did not meet in May.
- d. Friends Liaison Report
  - i. Friends of EHFPL: following programs coming up
    - 1. June 17 will be collecting books at 1<sup>st</sup> Church every Tuesday from 10-12. **Book Sale is October 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Need help moving books on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.**
    - 2. Kids raffle drawings for little prizes will commence July and August.
    - 3. Author Showcase Nov 8 @ Grange looking to get new authors.
  - ii. Friends of Rathbun: following programs coming up
    - 1. Upcoming events, roles and responsibilities were discussed.
    - 2. Silhouette Lady was a great success.
  - iii. Co-Sponsored events with both Friends Groups and or EH Historical Society
    - 1. June (date TBD) Mr. Bubbles
    - 2. July 13 Tanglewood Marionette's performing Cinderella @ NHRHS (co-sponsor with Rathbun Friends)
    - 3. July 29 Shark Program with EH Historical Society
    - 4. August 11 The Poop Museum @ EH Historical Society
    - 5. Both friends' groups will meet together at a neutral place and work on a joint Friend's brochure.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Internship Program – **line item in FY26 budget**
- B. 2024-25 Budget – have spent 84% through April which is on track.
- C. 2025-26 Budget – Referendum May 27

- D. CLC Strategic Planning Cohort-Develop Strategic Plan Committee – E Morgen to present in June.
- E. Cuts to IMLS see Guest speaker M Sullivan
- VII. New Business
  - a. New director of YFS would like to meet with other organizations including EHLS.
- VIII. Audience of Citizens - None
- IX. Adjournment without objection at 7:15pm

The meeting will be streamed live on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA> You may also access the YouTube Live link from the Town's website: [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org)

email questions or comments to: [emorgen@easthaddamlibrarysystem.org](mailto:emorgen@easthaddamlibrarysystem.org)