Minutes

East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees

Thursday, August 14, 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 6:31pm
   a. Trustees present: D Barlow, K McRae, C vanValkenburg, L White (via phone) J Bielot, M Mazur, J Ranaudo
   b. Also present: E Morgen (Director EHLS), Laurel White (BOT nominee applicant)

II. Directors Report – E Morgen reported Town budget approved @ 2nd referendum with no cuts to library budget giving the ability to hire 2 high school interns and increase J Riley's hours by 5 hours/week; Spent 99.3% of 2024/2025; Because of restricted space at both libraries several events held at other locations but very successful; Cartooning Workshop sponsored by grant from Community Foundation of Middlesex County & the CT Humanities big success. The grant was shared with Portland & E Hampton Libraries; Vouchers for All Shook Up from Goodspeed Opera House have run out. Will have more for the next show, Chorus Line; Summer reading program had >300 participants through end of July; Many upcoming projects on her to-do list including: Updating policies, interviewing for new staff, employee performance evaluations, monthly staff meetings and advocating for new library. L White asked to keep the new library in the forefront of community not only because of restricted size for events but also because it is not ADA compliant. Public relations committee can assist with the task as well as when introducing a program, not held at the libraries, state that it is on behalf of the library. BOT can wear badges at events as identifiers.

III. Reports
   a. Finance Committee Report – budget passed (see directors report)
   b. Governance Committee Report – J Ranaudo reported for upcoming elections Democrats can nominate 2 candidates. Republicans' possibility of nominating 4 There are two-6-year terms, one-2-year term & one-4-year term; Director Evaluation overall positive sentiment; Annual Manual Review begins in September; Board Effectiveness Survey results will be sent shortly; New policies to be reviewed in upcoming meetings.
   c. Public Relations Report – M Mazur reported programs & community outreach have been very successful and the fall has a lot more events coming up; Requested a thank you note be written to EH Historical Society for their joint efforts on various programs. She will reach out to S Jezek
   d. Friends Liaison Report

i. Friends of EHFPL – Book sale (Oct 10 & 11) receiving lots of donations of some very old books so will be having a book dealer evaluate. Need help with putting up flyers and setting up (Oct). Bought lawn signs that can be reused every year; Lots of excited kids participated in the raffle drawing; Local author showcase is expected to have 12-14 authors.
ii. Friends of Rathbun – Discussed co-sponsored events were successful but could bring more attendance if held at a different time of the year; Planning for upcoming events such as Fairy House, ½ Pint Village, & Holiday Market.

IV. Unfinished Business
   a. Internship Program – Can be removed from agenda.
   b. 2025-2026 Budget – Approved
   c. CLC Strategic Planning Cohort-Develop Strategic Plan Committee – Need to set goals for next year.
   d. Presentation Boards for New Library Facility – Placeholder to be changed to New Library Facility

V. New Business - None
VI. Audience of Citizens – None
VII. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

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

email questions or comments to: emorgen@easthaddamlibrarysystem.org