Minutes

East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Municipal Office Bldg 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.

1) Call to Order by D Barlow @ 6:30pm
2) Trustees present: D Barlow, J Bielot, A Hinchcliff, M Mazur, K McRae, S Jezek, J Tryon Ranaudo (via phone),
   Others present: E Morgen EHLS Director
3) Approval of May 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.
4) Director's Report -
   a) Budget – This has consumed a significant part of the director's time with various meetings. The budget referendum on May 27 failed. The BoS found areas where the budget could be cut without needing cuts to the Library System budget. The next referendum will be on July 22nd. We have spent 90% of our current year's budget through May and are on track for this month's spending.
   b) Overviews of May & June Events – The gate count is up significantly over last year. The Friends of EHFPL & Rathbun continue to prepare summer & fall events such as the Tanglewood Puppets show, and (2) programs (Bubblemania & Sharks) that will be held at the East Haddam Historical Society as they have a larger space than is available at either library.
   c) The library staff chose objectives towards implementing the Library's Strategic Plan and have met almost all of them at this time. The remainder will be completed and new objectives for FY26 will be chosen.
5) Reports:
   a) Finance Committee Report – Reviewed current budget line by line. Currently at approx. 90% of the current FY budget. E Morgen is pursuing grants to fund an LCD screen and mount for Rathbun, to mimic what is at EHFPL and to start digitizing the historical collection.
   b) Governance Committee Report – Discussed the upcoming municipal election although not sure what the candidate slates will be. They had hoped to review the director's evaluation, but they didn't receive enough responses by the time of the meeting. The annual review of the manual will start in September. The board effectiveness survey will be done in July this year to try to get it synced with the start of the fiscal year. The July meeting has been rescheduled from July 3rd to July 17th.
   c) Public Relations Committee Report – Reviewed the budget status. Discussed community outreach. Discussed book club with the East Haddam Land Trust and the Secret Life of Trees

book. Talked about the Home School Program and publicity of the program. They talked about doing more press releases to get more publicity for the library system, more flyers around town, and talked about email newsletters. On June 27th there will be a board game event. On June 11th there will be a teen writing program. There will be no July meeting. E Morgen discussed using Constant Contact, but a concern was raised regarding how to pay for it since it would possibly be more than $1,000/yr. and it would impact the budget.

d) Friends Liaison Report
    i) Friend Book Sale – Collections start every Tuesday 10-12 at First Church until the end of September. Barbara Kiley is going to ask Anastasia Wilson to help generate posters and a new Friend's pamphlet. Summer reading program kicks off on 6/21.
    ii) Treasure Chest of Gifts – Children who do not win a gift from the summer reading program will have an opportunity to still get a gift.
    iii) Adult Reading Program
        (1) iii. Co-Sponsored events with both Friends Groups and or EH Historical Society
            (a) July 17th Bubblemania
            (b) July 29 Shark Program
            (c) August 11 The Poop Museum
            (d) Snakes and Turtles (EH Land Trust)
            (e) September Fairy Houses

6) Unfinished Business
    a) Internship Program – Using unspent money from FY25 to keep the (1) Intern through the summer.
    b) 2024-25 Budget – discussed previously.
    c) 2025–26 Budget – no other discussion.
    d) CLC Strategic Planning Cohort-Develop Strategic Plan Committee. (4) goals. Staff worked with Maureen Sullivan to select goals to work on. The Strategic plan is available on the website. Discussed working with the Ivoryton Playhouse. Talked about using other facilities that have better accessibility which is now being done. Continue advocating for a new library building but currently on hold due to town funding new firehouse. Partnering with the Land Trust and Senior Center. Plan the summer reading program with the school system. E Morgen met with the new Youth and Family Service director.
    e) Cuts to IMLS – (Institute of Museums and Library Services) Continuing story. Funded through September. In CT funds the Middletown Service Center and the c-car system. Not in next year's federal budget.
7) New Business
    a) Upcoming event at the Sr. Center – 6/27 Brain Healthy (Alzheimer's event).
8) Audience of Citizens - None
9) Adjournment without objection at 7:24pm

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