East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 6, 2026

Meeting called to order 2:38pm

Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director
Approval of April 1, 2026 minutes accepted as submitted
Director's Report

E Morgen presented the recent announcement-Excellence in Community Engagement Award-she received alongside Gaynell Meij, of the East Haddam Land Trust. The award, given by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, was announced at Wesleyan University March 21, 2026, recognizes the highly successful collaborative event Words From the Woods Book Circle, hosted by the East Haddam Library System and the East Haddam Land Trust. The award will be received after the May 18, 2026 book circle in the Memorial Garden behind the Rathbun Library at 3:30pm.

Since the announcement of the New Library Exploratory Committee formation, the members of the committee have all been interviewed and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The announcement of these members will happen at the Board of Selectmen meeting May 6, 2026 at the 7pm meeting. 7 regular members and 2 alternate members are assigned.

In celebration of Earth Month in April, and in conjunction with The Sustainability Team, Shamreil, one of the Library Assistants, did an Earth Day presentation.

The East Haddam Land Trust also participated by providing reading lists and book discussions for teens and young readers throughout the month.

E Morgen presented the stats she has recently compiled for library usage. All are up-audiobooks are up by 20%, e-books by 8%, e-magazines has increased by 27% and our patronage has increased by 9%.

Library Program Updates

Patrons are always encouraged to visit the EHLS website for a complete and updated calendar of events. eathaddamlibrarysystem.org There are recurring events as well as specialty events listed for both locations. Upcoming highlights include a lavender painting program being held for 2 nights and attendance is fully registered.

E Morgen met with First Selectman T Gelston and discovered absolutely no budget or preparatory work was done by the previous administration to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary. Susan Waide is actively working to get things going. The town is planning on making banners to set up around the community as well as the Economic Development Commission, hosting a Paint the Town Red, White and Blue contest. E Morgen plans to decorate both library buildings to participate and hopes for some assistance from the Goodspeed which has worked with the Library System in the past. According to E Morgen, the

town received a very generous financial donation to provide for these and other celebratory activities. The EHLS Ancestry database will be used to assist people with genealogy research during the day long celebrations being held on July 11, 2026. In addition, the Governor's Footguard and the Moodus Fife and Drum will be participating

The summer reading program will have a celebratory kick off event on June 19, 2026, featuring a face painter and balloon sculptor at the Moodus Free Public Library building.

The plans to design a seed library are still being formed. It is possible that local Master Gardener, Susan Kinsman, will host a seed exchange table at the end of the summer.

The Tiny Art exhibit is up at the Rathbun Library building through June 1, 2026.

Old Business

Community Invitations/Opportunities and Upcoming Events and participation

The East Haddam Library System sponsored the town's kick off to the semiquincentennial celebrations. Held at the Grange on April 17, 2026, it featured a storytelling and music program-When American Music Became American, presented by instrumentalist, songwriter and historian, Joe Flood; accompanied by Jim Clark, PhD, leader of the Connecticut field Music, Fife and Drum Corp. The program was very popular, over 60 people attended, with standing room only.

New Business

See above under Library Director Report and Program Updates

Public Relations will prepare information and promote the Library System at upcoming Sustainability events in the Community Engagement area of their table set ups.

Meeting Adjourned 3:15pm

Next meeting June 3, 2026 2:30pm at the Rathbun Library

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary