

Minutes
East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees
Thursday March 13, 2025

Municipal Office Building
Meeting Room 3
6:30pm

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 public discussion.

- I. Call to Order by D Barlow 6:33pm
 - a. Trustees present: D Barlow, J Ranaudo, K McRea, S Jezek, J Bielot, M Mazur(phone), L White
 - b. Also present: E Morgen, Director EHLS
- II. Approval of February 13, 2025 meeting minutes as presented
- III. Directors Report- E Morgen reported that the 2025-2026 budget is in progress and unchanged as of today She will be presenting to the Board of Finance Saturday March 15, 2025 at 1pm. She also reports that the updated website is on target and ready to launch at the beginning of April. The recently hired Haley Ault as children's librarian is doing well and highly engaged with establishing new programming. The partnership with the East Haddam Land Trust book club is going well and is so well attended that the next meeting for March 17, 2025 is moving to St Stephen's Church, across the street from the Rathbun, for spacial reasons. Childrens' Programming is growing.
- IV. Reports
 - a. Finance Committee Report-met very briefly Monday March 10, 2025 prior to being called in to the Board of Finance meeting
 - b. Governance Committee Report-Laurel white has been appointed to the Trustees, at their recent meeting they discussed upcoming municipal elections. There are 4 seats open, 3-6year and 1-2year terms.
 - c. Public Relations Report-the March 5, 2025 meeting discussed community outreach. One of the town's select people, Tanya Bourgoin, discussed an upcoming event at Machimoodus happening on March 23, 2025 from 12-3, they would like to partner with the library for recreation, education and conservation. The committee felt that they could not add this to this year's calendar but will consider it for next year. The town event at Heritage Park-date TBA-has 3 activity centers with tables for community organizations to participate. The library is hoping to have access to a table at no cost to be able to share information about library activities. The presentation boards for the new combined library planning are being worked on to bring them up to current status and information. There is a possibility that the May meeting might need to be cancelled, the July meeting is

officially cancelled and M Mazur will inform the Town Hall of this change. Further discussion regarding specific Friends programming will be found under Friends below.

d. Friends Liaison Report

- i. Friends of EHFPL-Partnership with the Historical Society for summer programming to happen on 4 Tuesdays in July while the school students are on break. This will include a visit from Mystic Aquarium. Also gifts for Mrs Claus' bag have been purchased as well as sandwich boards for street side advertising, the sandwich boards are the style that is a plexiglass shield rather than individual lettering board. The Author showcase is being planned again for this year, as well as a Friends of both library groups gathering off campus for social connectivity. They discussed how local advertising in the East Haddam News is not as reliable as it could be. Discussion around how to better access the paper to host library events. Adding events to the calendar for time sensitive events instead of story reporting was suggested. Also E Morgen stated that she would be starting to write articles for the paper on a regular basis now that she has passed her 1 year anniversary and feels better acclimated to the community. All are welcome to join the EHFPL Friends meetings which happen on the first Tuesday of the month.
- ii. Friends of Rathbun-Continuing with Historical Society Partnership, the Friends are looking into Mr Bubbles and the Marionettes performing Cinderella for this year. The Friends are very grateful to be partnering and sharing the expense of these activities with the Historical Society
- iii. Other activities they are hoping to repeat are the Silhouette Lady around Mother's Day, this is a very popular event, Half-pint Halloween in connection to the Village activities is being planned and hosting another visit with The Florence Griswold Museum to create Fairy Villages. Librarians are encouraged to attend all these activities to keep libraries front and center in people's minds. Also there will be a POOP presentation Monday August 11, 2025. The location is still yet to be determined. 1000 books before Kindergarten continues at the Rathbun and prizes of tshirts, books and backpacks have been purchased. The Friends support Anastasia's programs for the upcoming American Doll Tea and Swiftie events.

Discussion surrounding the Strategic Plan and how these events check off a huge block of Community connectivity.

V. Unfinished business

- a. Internship is still in the budget for 25-26
- b. The 24-25 Budget is still on track
- c. The 25-26 Budget is still in process, so far without changes
- d. Strategic Plan is in good shape

- e. The new website is going well and is due to launch at the beginning of April. The designer is scheduled as part of the contract to continue to be available to train.
- f. Presentation Boards-significant discussion. These are due for updates and corrections. Because of the big budget items coming before the town, the firehouse and roads and bridges included, the presentation is being held. In the meantime discussion around what can be done to keep the project moving forward and to keep the project on the forefront of the community's mind. E Morgen suggested forming a building committee while we wait. It is determined that the Chair of the Trustees and E Morgen as Library Director would bring this proposal to the Board of Selectmen. This was determined to be premature but that sitting idle was not an option. A community member who is a retired Library Administrator Maureen Sullivan has been an enormous asset to the Trustees and to E Morgen as advisor to planning. E Morgen will consult with M Sullivan to determine the best steps forward to keep preparations current. Developing a timeline is most crucial. ADA compliance is a significant concern, it is not a matter of IF but WHEN the state will come down on this. In the State of CT there are 4 libraries that are not ADA compliant, East Haddam has 2 of these 4. The second biggest crucial aspect is to keep libraries in everyone's minds by advertising and making the events the library funds and hosts more readily available to the community. Perhaps tri fold flyers in businesses. As the summer and nicer weather arrives-visitors will be looking for things to do in town.
- g. Capital Projects in the Town Budget-the Library does not have a line item in the Capital Budget, on Saturday when the Library goes before the Board of Finance-E Moren will ask about this.

VI. New Business-E Morgen will consult with M Sullivan to develop a timeline for actions related to the new library building.

VII. Audience of Citizens-none

VIII. Without objection, Adjournment 7:31pm

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA>

You may also access the YouTube Live link through the town's website:

www.easthaddam.org

Email questions or comments to:

emorgen@easthaddamlibrarysystem.org