EAST HADDAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

1. Meeting called to order by D Barlow at 6:32 PM

   Trustees present: D Barlow, J Bielot, S Jezek, L White, M Mazur, W Barney; present via phone: J Ranaudo, K McRae

   Also present: E Morgen, Library System Director

2. The minutes of the June 11, 2026 regular meeting were reviewed and accepted as present. There were no July, 2026 meeting minutes as the meeting did not take place due to the lack of a quorum
3. Library System Director's Report

   E Morgen reported Library System activities and plans.

   a. A program about the "Beat Generation" is being finalized and will probably be presented in late September or October.
   b. Goodspeed continues to offer tickets to its shows on a seat available basis. To reduced backups, the seats are made available at a cost of $15. Per ticket and made available on Mondays.
   c. The Friends Book Sale will be held on October 9 and 10. Help is needed in the days prior the Sale to transfer books and get the Grange prepared.
   d. In order to accommodate demands for Library programs, sites other than the Library are being utilized. Such facilities has greatly expanded the reach of the Libraries as well as the variety of programs.
4. Board of Selectmen Liaison
   a. Due prior commitments, Mr. Sevigny was unable to attend
5. Reports
   a. The Finance Subcommittee
      i. The 2026-26 budget has been closed out with a small balance returned to the Town
      ii. The 2026-27 budget is tracking as expected
      iii. The Subcommittee recommends that the full Board of Trustees begin considering of items for the 2027-28 budget. The Subcommittee feels that asking that two part time positions, one at each facility, be made full time be considered in the Operating budget and repair of the Rathbone elevator and window replacement be included in the Capital budget request
   b. The Governance Subcommittee
      i. The Subcommittee has received most Trustee Director and Self Evaluations but not all. The results are being reviewed by the Subcommittee and it is expected that a report will be presented at the October meeting.
      ii. The Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing Trustee policies and will present them to the entire Board as they are completed.

iii. The Subcommittee discussed the management of the State funded long term lap top computer loan program, the issues and implications. It is recommended that the full Board of Trustees take up the issue.

c. Public Relations Subcommittee

i. The Subcommittee is examining ways to improve the visibility of the L: library System in the community. One idea was to include in the East Haddam News factoids about the libraries. Short and easy to read ideas and facts to keep public awareness high. The Subcommittee feels that a more effective use of Internet resources would be a positive action and that looking for ways to better connect with other Town agencies and resources would be a wise move.

d. Friends Groups

i. The July/August raffle program was a hit and a success

ii. Yet another reminder regarding the Friends Book Sale and the need for assistance in getting things ready.

e. Corresponding Secretary

i. No activity to report

6. Old Business
   a. It was agreed that items relative to past, present and future budgets had been covered in the Finance Subcommittee report. It was agreed that a discussion regarding the 2027-28 Operating and Capital budgets would be held in October
   b. It was determined that the Board and the Director needed to do a better job of gathering appropriate data to demonstrate the importance of the Library System to the entire East Haddam population.
   c. The idea of a Summer Paluzza was discussed and the Board felt that it would be a positive addition to the Library's programming
7. New Business
   a. Motion by L White/S Jezek to add to the New Business item, consideration of the revised policy regarding Trustee's writing Letters to local papers. Passed 7-0-0
   b. There was a considerable discussion about the 13 computers that the State has given to the Library System to be loaned eligible East Haddam residents on a long term basis. There are still some questions about the logistics of the program and E Morgan will seeks answers from the State. It is expected that the program will be 'rolled out' in October.
   c. S Jezek/J Ranaudo that the Board of Trustees approve a revised policy about the processing of Letters to the Editor written by Trustees. The essence is that a disclaimer that the opinions expressed in such communications are personal and do not reflect the views of the Board of Library Trustees. After appropriate discussion, the motion was approved 7-0—0
8. Audience of Citizens
   a. There was no audience of Citizens
9. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM

Submitted by: W Barney, Board Secretary