EAST HADDAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2026

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

   Trustees present: D Barlow, J Ranaudo, J Bielot, S Jezek, M Mazur, W Barney

   Also present: E Morgen, Library System Director; T Sevigny, Board of Selectman, Library Liaison

   2. The Minutes of September 10, 2026 were reviewed and the following corrections were made: a. under item 2, there was no scheduled meeting for July, 2026 and the August, 2026 was not held due to the lack of a quorum. b. under item 3b, Tuesday should replace Monday. c. under item 7c it should ne nopted that the ;policy proposal was developed by the Public Relations and Media Subcommittee. After appropriate discussion, motion by S Jezel/J Ranauo to approve as amended carried 6-0-0
   3. Director's Report
      a. The New Library Study Committee has visited several local area libraries and discussed library design with the Directors. The Committee is developing a response matrix to make the collection and sharing of data more effective. The Committee has involved the East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission in it's work early in the process to facilitate site identification.
      b. The Director noted the Letter to the Editor by L White and there was a discussion about the process for other Trustees submitting letters.
      c. E Morgan brought up two capital needs, the repair of the Rathbun elevator and the repair of the windows at both library branches, These matters will be brought to the attention of the Facilities Director.
      d. The program about the B eat Generation was well attended and the various children's program have also been very well attended.
      e. The Board was reminded that the Friends Book Sale was occurring on October 9 and 10, and that assistance was needed to getting the Grange prepared for the sale.
      f. The Connecticut DEEP and Library Commission Long Term Laptop loan program has begun. E Morgen has notified the Senior Center an Youth and Family Services about the program, the rules of getting the loan of a laptop and the procedures for applying.

g. E Morgen re viewed the data contained in the annual report to the State Library Commission. She noted that the patron visit count was down slightly from the prior year, it was a statistically insignificant difference. in all other categories pertaining to library usage, the numbers were larger year over year. The patron count may have been impacted by the hand counting method used, The Library staff will be working with the Town Tech Department to determine a better, more accurate approach

4. Selectmen's Report
    a. T Sevigny reporting for the Selectmen
    b. The Fire House bonding proposal was defeated by the Board of Finance and the Firehouse Building Committee has been asked to go back and develop a less costly proposal
    c. The Board of Selectmen have established a Town Investment Committee to oversee bonding efforts. All appropriate Town Departments and .Commissions will be invited to participate.
5. Reports
    a. Finance Subcommittee

        Materials for the preparation of the 2027-28 budget have not been distributed
        There are no grants available and no donations have been received
        An issue has risen regarding liability insurance coverage by non Town groups using Town facilities. The concern is being work on and a solution is expected within the next week or so.

    b. Governance

        The Subcommittee is working on the development of an orientation procedure for new Trustees

        The handling and reporting od donations is being discussed with the Board of Selectmen and a revised policy is expected within the month

    c. Public Relations and Media

        The Subcommittee offered its deep and sincere thanks to Anistasia for her work in developing and managing the various Library programs

        There was a discussion regarding improved publicity for the various Library programs

    d. Friends

        There was no report from the Friends of EHFPL

The Friends of Rathbun reported that the Tanglewood Puppeteers has been canceled

The Half Hamlet program will not be held this year. The Friends are looking into the possibility of scheduling it every other year

e. Corresponding Secretary

S Jezek reported that a card was sent to K McRae wishing her a speedy recovery

6. Unfinished Business
    a. The 2026-27 is tracking as expected and there are m no issues or concerns st this time
    b. The work of the New Library Study Committee was covered in the Executive Directors report
    c. The revised Public Relations and Media Policy was approved at the September Trustees meeting
    d. The results of the Eight Mile River Community Forum were covered at the September Trustees meetingt
    e. The DEEP Long Term Laptop loan program was addressed in the Executive Directors rfeport.
7. New Businessd
    a. Discussion regarding the 2027-28 Budget was postponed pending the release of budget preparation documents
8. Audience of Citizens
    a. There was no audience of citizens
9. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM

Submitted by: W Barney, Board of Trustees Secretary