East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 9, 2026

Meeting called to order 2:32pm

Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director
Approval of June 3, 2026 minutes accepted with changes noted. Under **Director's Report**, paragraph 1(one), the award for Words From the Woods Book Circle was bestowed at 3:15 pm, not 3:30 as was reported. Under **Library Program Updates**, paragraph 1(one), the library system website was misspelled. Eathaddamlibrarysystem should say easthaddamlibrarysystem.org

Director's Report

E Morgen shared upcoming programs being offered. On September 18, 2026, local book antiquarian and historian, Ryan Knaggs, will be presenting The Beat Generation from 630-8pm at the Rathbun location.

The CT State Library in partnership with DEEP is offering laptop computers to many of the libraries around the state. Our facilities received 13 laptops. E Morgen is planning to collaborate with YFS and the Senior Center to determine need and eligibility. These laptops are available for 5 year loan periods to those with a valid library card, ability to show need and are 18 years of age or older.

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: the annual book sale 10/9-10/10, 2026, Author Showcase in November, another Fire Cider workshop which is already full before the announcement was made so the presenter is offering a second, date to be determined, a Florence Griswold Fairy House making workshop 9/19, Half-pint Hamlet, The Community Lions Annual Christmas auction, The Art League's Art show-going on now, the Holiday Market being held at the Grange Hall and the Old Town Hall, and the Children's Librarian, Anastasia will be the representative for the library system at the annual Project Safe Halloween held at the MOC.

Old Business

Community Invitations/Opportunities and Upcoming Events and participation

As mentioned above many community partnerships have created amazing programming. See the Easthaddamlibrarysystem.org website for current offerings. Upcoming community partnership programs for the East Haddam Library System include the East Haddam Sustainability Team , Youth and Family Services, The East Haddam Land Trust, The Senior Center, The Community Lions, The East Haddam Art League, St Stephens Church, The First Congregational Church, Dr Karl Stofko, and in regional partnerships, DEEP and The Florence Griswold Museum,

A brief report of the New Library Exploratory Committee(NLEC) meeting was presented by E Morgen, Library Director. Recent actions include attending a Planning and Zoning meeting to obtain guidance and advice in the planning stage of this committee. As a result, 3 P&Z liaisons were appointed to the NLEC.

New Business

Participation in the Upcoming Friends events

M Mazur expressed concern that access to the Rathbun Friends meetings is challenging for several members as they are now held in the Children's area of the Rathbun location, which is on the basement level without accessible accomodations.

“Did You Know” newspaper reports

M Mazur has expressed interest in providing arcane tidbits monthly to the local newspaper, East Haddam News. Discussion about protocol and subject matter.

“Imagination Library”

Dolly Parton has established an international program to deliver free books to children ages birth to 5 years old. M Mazur reports that at least 5 towns in CT have adopted this program. E Morgen stated that the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program is similar in that the patrons are given a book bag with a free book for participation. Discussion determined that the heavy lift of managing and tracking would become burdensome to the Children’s Librarian. Instead, E Morgen wishes to extend the 1000 Books program to the Moodus branch. Perhaps, M Mazur could assist in this extension as it would add to the Children’s Librarian paperwork management.

Receiving the minutes from the Friends meetings

E Morgen will speak to the Rathbun Friends president to determine limited reporting being provided to the Library Trustees. Minutes are not being provided to the Trustees Liaison.

“A Picture”

Discussion of the recent Firehouse insert in the local newspaper.

Role and limitations of the Program Committee

This is supposed to read Public Relations Committee. Discussion about Trustee members’ comments regarding Public Relations suggestions and article ideas.

Meeting Adjourned 3:54pm

Next meeting October 7, 2026 2:30pm at the Rathbun Library

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary