East Haddam Library Systems Board of Trustees
Subcommittee Public Relations Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 7, 2026

Meeting called to order 2:42pm
Members present: M Mazur, L White
Also in attendance: E Morgen, Library Director
Approval of September 9, 2026 minutes accepted with changes noted. Under Library Program Updates the calendar of events website should read easthaddamlibrarysystem.org, not eathaddamlibrarysystem.org

Director's Report

E Morgen shared concerns that the time line for the new library being something that will take years, the libraries we have now need some repairs to maintain the environment. Broken windows, window cleaning and the lift at the Rathbun Library and at the EHFPL branch, the basement bathroom is extremely problematic.

It was recently discovered that both Friends Groups need liability insurance for their events. The upcoming book sale brought this to light. The Friends Groups an independent 501c3 and are not part of the town library system, which falls under town insurance. An insurance rider was purchased by the Friends.

E Morgen, J Riley and A Wilson worked hard this week to do the complex discovery work needed to finalize a report to the CT State Library. This was due October 1, 2026.

The CT State Library and CT DEEP laptop program is open and 1 laptop has been loaned to a town resident who met the criteria.

E Morgen states that although the libraries are significantly understaffed, the staff are all extremely dedicated and hard working.

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 and the Author Showcase in November.

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.
M Mazur brought the Land Trust calendar of events and mentioned how many programs they are offering.

E Morgen reported the New Library Exploratory Committee met with Planning and Zoning liaisons. They will be returning to the October 20, 2026 meeting to gain a better understanding of the criteria the CT State Library expects for the new building. They will gather this information and return to the NLEC to present properties that meet these criteria. Also, Newfield Construction, who built the Middle School, has offered to consult and do pro bono sketches when that time comes.

Mistakes, spelling mistakes and follow through on minutes at both subcommittee and board level was discussed. E Morgen will bring this forward to Governance.
A consideration of having a board retreat, perhaps asking Maureen Sullivan to lead this.

New Business

M Mazur reports that there is confusion between the Friends Groups and the Trustees in how much support or help the Friends need from the trustees and whether the Trustees are welcome to assist in any way. E Morgen will discuss in detail with the friends Groups.

Also it was reported that there was confusion about who decides whether an event is happening. For example, Venture Smith Day events or 9/11 events. The Library Director plans programs and announces Library run activities, the Friends Groups can plan their own activities under the auspices of “The Friends”. The Friends Groups are independent 501c3 organizations. They are supporters of the library. E Morgen will discuss at the Friends Group meetings.

E Morgen has been working with The Sustainability Committee to do a 3 part video presentation by the entomologist, conservationist and University of Delaware professor, Doug Tallamy on Oak Trees. They are considering locations, as the libraries are both too small to host this type of event. Scheduling is being considered for January, February and March, 2027.

M Mazur presented FOCL(Friends of CT Libraries) publication, Friends groups from all over the state of CT write in to share ideas they have. The library system subscribes to this. E Morgen will share with the Friends Groups at the next meeting.

M Mazur is still gathering “Did You Know” ideas. She has yet to finalize the plan.

As a Library Trustee Rathbun Friends Group liaison and also a Friend Group member, M Mazur states she is now receiving the minutes for the Rathbun Friends. E Morgen suggests she reach out when she doesn’t receive a copy.

Meeting Adjourned 3:34pm

Next meeting November 4, 2026 2:30pm at the Rathbun Library

Respectfully Submitted, Laurel White, Secretary