

EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Members Present:

T. Attanasio, H. Cheeseman, M. Dunphy, A. Fisher, E. Gong, D. Jacobs, E. Karanth, J. Makiaris, L. McIlhenny, R. Morrill, C. Weber, L. Timothy, T. Borden, M. Zamarka.

Call to Order:

Holly Cheeseman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Delegation from the Public:

Holly Cheeseman made the motion to vote for Ekata Karanth as a Board Member and David Jacobs seconded. Holly made the motion to vote for Ekata Karanth as secretary, Marilyn Dunphy seconded. All the members voted 'Yes' and Ekata Karanth's Board membership was approved.

Secretary's Minutes:

Corinne Weber initiated filling in the blanks from the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting. As follows:

- Are late fees charged at high school? Jack Dugan said late fees need to be paid at the end of the semester.
- John Makiaris moved to go into Executive Session at approximately 7:20 pm to discuss a pending retirement and replacement plan; seconded by Tony Attanasio.
- At 7:22 pm John Makiaris moved to go out of Executive Session; seconded by Tony Attanasio.
- Motion to adjourn made by Jack Dugan, seconded by Richard Morrill to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

Holly made a motion to amend the minutes as amended. David Jacob and Tony seconded the motion. Holly and Abe Fisher abstained. The motion was approved.

FILED

Jan 23 2019 AT 12:30 AM/PM
Carrie Hill
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Treasurer's Report:

John reported that more than 50% of the fiscal year has passed. He explained that in the future trustees will get a shorter version of the treasurer's report (the balance sheet), but he will still get the whole report. In next 5-6 months John will make some changes to the language of the report to simplify it. Anyone can contact Tara and John if they have any questions. Richard Morrill moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and this was seconded by Abe. The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

Director's Report:

Lisa stated her continued concern over health insurance costs. Even though this month's health insurance bills are better by \$10,000 there may be overage in the next months. Next few months may be a "roller coaster ride."

On December 20, Lisa met with the executive committee and decided to close the library on Sundays for the rest of the fiscal year to manage funds. She stated we will be getting back \$10,000 of \$30,000 this month as health insurance bills were better this month, but it may change next month. It's not clear how much expenditure will be there until June, so we will keep library closed on Sundays.

Lisa is feeling nervous about state funding. A question was raised by Mark Zamarka looking at town operating budget of \$1.6 million for health insurance; he is going to talk to Mark Nickerson, first selectman.

Holly said we have been fortunate for many years because our town has a reserve but if 3-4 people get serious illnesses, that would change.

Lisa said every 6 months *for the past year* we have a huge budget cut.

Hoping it's a temporary problem.

Lisa has submitted the budget for the fiscal year 2020 to the town. She *emailed* all board of trustees *with this version*; if they need a *printed* copy she will send it to you. In this budget she asked for more money to be on the safe side We hope to carry forward \$20,000, and still need a replacement for Judy Layden.

Two possible new board members were introduced, 1. EKATA KARANTH, and 2. CHRISTIE HAYES, due to a fire during Christmas she cannot make it to this meeting; she will be here for the March meeting.

The Board unanimously approved Ekata's election to the Board. She will also assume the responsibilities of the Board secretary.

Marilyn raised questions about the Library closings: When did it start, did we notify people? Lisa said we posted on Facebook and Twitter and put a notice on the library website. Marilyn suggested publishing it in the newsletter / press release. Tony asked how many people visit the library on a Sunday.

The answer was approximately 60-90 visitors

Children have stopped playing the violent computer game Fortnite. No discussion.

President's Update:

Health insurance issue. The state has agreed to pay an increase in hospital tax. State also received close to \$400 million as late payment of medical payments of Medicaid. There will be a new budget from the new governor in February. Holly will keep us posted.

In terms of funding for the town and if the town is responsible for the teacher's pensions, the indication the governor made was he would like to keep municipal aid on hold but there are other things to take care.

Country has lost 312,000 jobs in which CT lost 500 jobs. Southern part of CT looks better. There are bright spots. A good pipeline has been established at a tech college partnering with a community college. There are good jobs but how to get to those jobs is difficult so this pipeline will help. CT lost 12,000 residents since 2016 and this took away \$2.6 billion revenue. We have lost the 23-43 age group. Last year all the taxes came out well.

Committee Reports:

1. Administrative/policy: No report.

2. Personnel:

Lisa and John will work together on the T-51 personnel policy.

The policy was last revised 3 years ago. The only thing we did not change is sick time which carries over; when you retire there is a certain amount you get paid until 120 days. We have a person who may retire with significant sick

leave. We do have extra money in the accrued leave budget beyond this incident. We want to make sure going forward that our sick policy works. We have one employee now who has that much sick time; no other employees have sick time stored up. We want to fix this. We have to do a few changes to update the policy.

Holly asked Mark if the town has any policy. He reported that they have had similar issues.

3. Public Relation: No report.

4. Nominating:

Ekata Karanth was nominated and elected as board member and secretary of the EL Public Library Board of Trustee. Christie Hayes will join us in March.

5. Budget: Previously discussed.

6. Publication Committee:

In December, Lisa, Corinne and Lois Hobby met Barbara Johnson, who is the president of the Historic Property Commission. There are 3 wonderful houses, Smith Harris House, Sam Smith House and Thomas Lee House.

We are thinking of coming up with publications or a digital timeline to enter the 21st century, which requires cooperation, which is not as easy as it sounds as each property has their own fundraisers and their own boards. We did not reach any conclusion. Barbara helped us with points of contact for the 3 houses. We talked about recording history of senior citizens. Lisa said they are going to meet again.

7. Strategic Planning Committee: Report submitted.

Lisa suggested advocacy training for Board of Trustee and foundation members. Is that something the board would like to have? Lisa is going to look into someone who can come and talk about it. How much will it cost and would it be useful?

Lisa discussed partnering with community organizations and has started looking at East Lyme Public Trust. Wondering if it would be wise to have the library partnering with them. Thinking long-term, we would like to expand the rest of this building. If parks and rec is relocated we will need allies in

town. Should it be this group. Does it sound like a reasonable partnership? Lisa showed more concern for more space in the future, we need new carpets for the library and we need lot of things. Loretta McIlhenny will go ahead and approach them and will get back to Lisa.

Old Business: No report.

New Business: November 2019 meeting will be moved to Monday November 18th. Holly made a motion to move the meeting. Abe approved and the motion was seconded by Loretta. Motion was approved.

Comments from Board of Selectman Representative Mark Salerno. We will start the budget process next month. We have an informational session on Tuesday; meeting is in the high school. Holly said I think this board has to understand that part of the whole plan would be to move and have potential space in this building.

Current police building is not appropriate for the purpose as per health or location points of view. It has served its purpose. It's over 10 years old and, after last week's rain there was concern. It's in a flood zone. There is a lot of concern for relocation at the Honeywell complex. Currently our police officers should not stay in that Niantic building.

Thanks to Lisa for making name plates for the meetings.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Holly, seconded by Abe at 7:41pm. Approved.

Date of next meeting: Monday March 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ekata Karanth.
Secretary.

