

**EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 06, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

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Members Present:

P. Arnold, T. Attanasio, D. Berry, T. Borden, A. Fisher, L. Fitzgerald, C. Giamalis, M. Helms, D. Jacobs, E. Karanth, S. Lubert, J. Makiaris, L. Timothy, P. Velcofsky, M. Zamarka, A. Santoro.

Cassandra Helms
TOWN CLERK

Call to order: President Larry Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Delegation from the public: None.

Secretary's Minutes:

Molly Helms made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mark Zamarka seconded. Christine Giamalis, Platt Arnold, and Deena Berry abstained. The motion was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: John Makiaris reported that finances are up to date.

Director's Report:

Lisa reported six architectural firms sent the bids in response to the RFQ for the Community Center feasibility plan, all the firms will be interviewed. The library will install a self-checkout machine. Tara added this would not affect any employees' positions. Lisa said the new conference room doors had been installed and furniture will be delivered soon. The Annual Connecticut Library Association Conference is on May 1st and 2nd, and will be held in Mystic CT.

President's Update: Larry talked about the New York Times article regarding North Dakota's attack on books and libraries. It was noted that efforts at censorship could impact us and limit access to the materials available on Hoopla and Overdrive, since those are national subscriptions and are not detached from states where censorship is occurring. There is currently a bill in the Connecticut legislature that protects our access to grants and continues our eligibility for state aid so long as we do not support censorship and do not succumb to the pressure of outside organizations. Lisa mentioned that another bill, the Connecticut ebook bill, is gaining traction; this bill is intended to address how online vendors charge libraries 4-5 times the cost that they charge single users to access/borrow ebooks. Lisa also indicated that the library can hire a summer intern with a Connecticut Humanities Grant, and that it may look toward hiring an archival intern.

Committee Report:

- **Administrative policy:** No Report.
- **Personnel:** Lisa said the library has postponed the hiring candidate. She added the library staff members took the job responsibilities.
- **Public Relations:** No Report.
- **Nomination:** No Report.
- **Budget:** Lisa noted that the Library's FY24 budget had been reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and so far, no updates had been made; the budget has now moved to the Board of Finance.
- **Publication Committee:** No Report
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** No Report
- **Social Justice Committee:** No Report. Lisa will keep the Board informed about any advocacy we can engage in for either of the two state bills previously discussed.

Old Business:

- **Increase amount for items listed for depreciation on the annual audit to \$2,500:**
Abe Fisher made a motion to increase the amount for items listed for depreciation on the annual audit to \$2,500. Christine Giamalis seconded. All the board members approved. Motion passed.
- **Historical Museum update:** Lisa noted that, through a grant we had received, we worked with a museum consultant who issued a report in December, the gist of which was that she did not like the Fire House Site. The Historical Society agreed with her conclusion, so The Fire House is no longer being considered as an archival site. For the time being, the library's closed stacks can be used for archival storage along with the alcove space, and the matter will be included in the upcoming feasibility study.

New Business:

- **Hull Dotion update:** The paperwork has been submitted and is in process.
- **Unattended Child Policy updates/after-school issues:** Lisa noted that students who are not attending the Parks & Rec after school program (parents are not notified per current Parks & Rec policy) are staying at and acting up in the library. She has reached out to the Library's pro bono counsel to have an attorney review the Library's Unattended Minor Policy. In the interim, she requested that the Board modify the current Unattended Minor Policy to increase the age of children requiring a responsible adult from 10 years to 12 years. Christine Giamalis made a motion to change the Children's age from 10 years to 12 years, pending review by counsel. Platt Arnold seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment: Anne Santoro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Molly Helms seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Date of next meeting: Monday, May 01, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ekata Karanth
Secretary