

**EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 01, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

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

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. Platt Arnold seconded. The motion was accepted.

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

Director's Report:

Lisa reported the library installed a self-checkout machine and that new books have been ordered for the Children's Room. Six architectural firms sent bids in response to the RFQ for the Community Center and she hopes to have the contract with the chosen firm finalized shortly and will make an announcement at that time. She updated the board members on significant internal changes to staff structure, as well as the successful appearance by Steve Katz (founding member of the group Blood, Sweat & Tears) organized by East Lyme Foundation at East Lyme High School. Lisa said that Annual Connecticut Library Association Conference was held today and that several library staff members attended the conference. Lisa and Tara are working on updating Employee Handbook and the pro bono attorney will be reviewing it. Lisa also indicated that the new conference room has furniture and can now be booked for use. She also updated the board members that there were no changes to the pending budget by the Board of Finance.

President's Update:

Larry talked about intellectual freedom and censorship challenges, as highlighted in the American Library Association 2023 report on the state of America's libraries, indicating that such challenges are typically coordinated efforts and active at the local level. There was an open discussion among the board members.

Committee Report:

- Administrative/policy: No Report.
- Personnel: No Report
- Public Relations: No Report.
- Nomination: No Report.
- Budget: No Report
- Publication Committee: No Report
- Strategic Planning Committee: No Report
- Social Justice Committee: No Report

Old Business:

- **Historical Museum update:** Since this is going to be tied into the upcoming feasibility study, there is no update. Anne Santoro requested that Lisa receive a statement in writing to the effect that the Old Firehouse

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is unsuitable to house historical archives, as this statement would help the Town determine potential future use for the site.

- **Hull Donation Update:** Peter Velcofsky updated the Board that he had to resubmit all the paperwork because the paperwork he'd been previously given by Wells Fargo to fill out was sent in error. It is hoped that we will receive the donation within 3- 4 weeks
- **Intellectual Freedom Challenges:** the Board discussed how multiple challenges and threats are being made to programs and displays, as well as books, throughout the state. It was felt that by making a strong statement against such challenges at this time, it would draw unwarranted attention and ultimately create trouble for the library and its staff. Christine Giamalis suggested to Lisa Timothy that the library's collection policy be amended to expressly include programs and displays. Lisa also mentioned the need to monitor banned books (many of which are being stolen from other libraries), and Christine Giamalis, Platt Arnold and Molly Helms all volunteered to do so.

New Business:

New conference room policy: Dave Jacobs made a motion to that the current policy of the East Lyme Public Library conference room be extended to include the new conference room. Christie Hayes seconded. Motion was accepted.

Miscellaneous: It was noted that Tony Attanasio will be rotating off the Board after having served nine years, so there will be two vacancies to be filled. Dave Jacobs asked about the installation of the millstone at the museum; Larry Fitzgerald advised that it will be installed by the museum's handyman soon and the Library will pay for it.

Adjournment: Christine Giamalis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Molly Helms seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Date of next meeting: Monday, Jul 10, 2023, 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ekata Karanth
Secretary