

**EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT

**Members Present:**

P. Arnold, A. Attanasio, K. Bolineni, N. Bolineni, T. Borden, A. Fisher, L. Fitzgerald, C. Giamalis, S. Guida, C. Hayes, M. Helms, D. Jacobs, S. Luber, J. Makiaris, A. Santoro, L. Timothy, and M. Zamora

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**Call to order:** President Larry Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

*Carol Glynn Helms*  
TOWN CLERK

**Secretary's Minutes:**

With respect to the minutes from the May 1, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting, Anne Santoro requested that the second sentence under "Old Business: Historical Museum update:" be amended to read: "Anne Santoro requested that Lisa forward to her a copy of the consultant's report concluding that the Old Firehouse was unsuitable to house historical archives, as this statement would help the Town determine potential future use for the site." Molly Helms made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, as amended. Abe Fisher seconded. The motion was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Makiaris had already provided the report during the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting that immediately preceded this meeting.

**President's Update:**

Larry talked about the ongoing censorship effort in Old Lyme to remove two books from the Young Adult section, the response of the community, and the pending Board of Trustees decision. He also noted that the millstone plaque was going to be installed this week. It was also noted that, in an effort to maintain a united front against censorship, it was advisable to maintain and strengthen the Library's connection with officials at Town Hall, especially after the coming elections, through tours and meet-and-greets.

**Director's Report:**

Lisa reported that new lights had been installed in the Children's Room. She also noted that the Library would be applying to participate in the Connecticut Library Consortium's project to take a cohort of Connecticut libraries and create a strategic plan. The resulting strategic plan would provide an added benefit since the Library needs to have a strategic plan in place in order to be eligible for state building grants. There will be a Staff Development Day on July 21<sup>st</sup>, and Lisa and Tara are currently working on a staff handbook, which is being reviewed by the Library's pro bono legal counsel. Christie Hayes noted that she was working with Sarah from the Children's Room to develop nature backpacks that could be checked out. Katick Bolineni offered to help with the Library's outreach to the high school.

**Committee Report:**

- **Administrative/policy:** No Report.
- **Personnel:** Lisa noted the upcoming Staff Development Day and the ongoing development of a staff handbook. It was also noted that there are currently two vacancies on the Board of Trustees.
- **Public Relations:** No Report.
- **Nomination:** No Report.
- **Budget:** No Report. Lisa noted that the only significant change from November was that money had been shifted from an open full-time position to part-time staff who is doing more. Tara Borden noted that the Annual Fund Drive had raised over \$38,000.
- **Publication Committee:** No Report. Christine Giamalis inquired about whether there would be a meeting with Carol Glynn to discuss turning her storybook trail story on Bride's Brook into a book. Lisa will reach

out to Carol. Lisa also noted that there would be a new storybook trail, featuring a book about Wombats by Foundation Board member Abi Cushman.

**Old Business:**

- **Censorship issues, room policy and program challenges:** Lisa noted that the state legislature had passed the censorship bill, and the Connecticut State Library was presently forming certain standards that every library has to follow; failure to comply results in forfeiture of state funds. The ebook bill did not make it out of committee, so it will come up again in next year's session.
- **Feasibility Study update:** The feasibility study is well underway. The Brian Cleveland Association had interviewed department heads and conducted 3 large information-gathering sessions,

**New Business:**

- **Staff Development Day:** This was already discussed during the Director's Report.

**Miscellaneous:** Christie Hayes asked about the upcoming webinar on September 12, 2023 on censorship for public library board members

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

**Date of next meeting:** Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Giamalis  
Assistant Secretary