

**EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

K. Bolineni, L. Calkins, D. Deeble, L. Fitzgerald, S. Guida, C. Hayes, M. Helms, E. Karanth, C. Larson, S. Lubner, J. Makiaris, M. Moher, L. Timothy, P. Velcofsky, S. Zimmerman, M. Zamarka, Deputy First Selectman A. Cicchiello and guest A. Garrow.

**Call to order:** Steve Lubner called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

**Delegation from the public:** Guest Atticus Garrow, a summer intern with the Democratic Town Committee, attended the library board meeting as part of his civic engagement initiative. He is a high school student interested in local government and community service. Attending this meeting fulfilled one of his internship requirements.

**Secretary's Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting July 8, 2024:**

Minutes from the previous annual meeting of July 8, 2024, were distributed. Molly Helms moved these minutes be accepted, Christie Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Annual Report:** John Makiaris reported that the library's annual report is in good shape and confirmed that there are sufficient resources to operate through the next fiscal year. Lisa added, she organized several line items in Quick Books to streamline the auditing process.

**Director's State of the Library 2025 report:** Lisa briefly reported the following:

Due to increased costs in health insurance and pension, the library had fewer funds to work with in FY25. To meet FY26 expenses, an 11% increase was initially requested from the town. Discussions were held with the Town Finance Director, and all necessary steps were taken to ensure health insurance costs remained within budget. The final approved FY26 budget reflects a 6.3% increase over the previous fiscal year.

In September, the library faced two censorship challenges related to the book "Gender Queer". Established protocols were followed to address and resolve the concerns appropriately.

The state legislature passed a new eBook law aimed at addressing the high prices publishers charge libraries for digital content.

The Library of Things launched in May 2025. Circulation has been steady, and the collection is expected to grow over the coming year.

The library's first cosplay Comic Con event was a success. It will return this year under the new name "Library Con."

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EAST LYME, CT  
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COMMUNICATIONS  
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**Departing Board Members:** Christie Hayes made a motion to Molly Helms a trustee emeritus in honor of her many years of service as Board of Trustee to the East Lyme Public Library. Lisa Calkins seconded. Motion passed.

**Nominating Committee:**

Christie informed the Board of Trustees Candidate Slate for FY26:

President: Steve Lubber  
Vice- President: Dave Jacobs  
Treasurer: John Makiaris  
Assistant Treasurer: Pete Velcofsky  
Secretary: Ekata Karanth  
Assistant Secretary: Katie Fargo

Molly Helms made a motion to accept the Board of Trustees Candidate Slate for FY26 as mentioned above. Larry Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed.

**Terms up for Renewal:**

Steve Lubber  
Pete Velcofsky

Molly Helms made a motion to accept the Term of Renewal for Steve Lubber and Pete Velcofsky. Larry Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed.

**Other**

Set date for next year's annual meeting (July 13, 2026, is second Monday in July): Steve Lubber announced next annual meeting is on July 13, 2026.

**Adjournment:** Christie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. John seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

**Date of next annual meeting:** Monday, July 13, 2026, 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Ekata Karanth  
Secretary