

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission
November 4, 2025, 6:30pm, via Teams
Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Roll Call: Present: Emily Clifford, Donna Hamre, Joyce Bolanos, Dan Keating, Jason Neely, Julie LaRocca. Not Present: Marilyn Cowles, Nzima Hutchings

Special Guest:

Music Director for the Enfield Community Chorus, July LaRocca, next year is their 50th anniversary. Moved to the Annex for their performances, grew and opened up exposure, advertising, getting the word out, different backgrounds, every year surpassing expectations. This year they are looking to see if ECAC will sponsor them again. They are looking to do another concert next year, and would love our support and to see us at their concerts this year.

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

Chairperson's remarks

Town Elections are tonight and there will be a period of reorganization. We may not know who our Town Council and BOE Liaisons will be after their organizational meeting on Monday, November 10th when they will choose the Mayor and the liaison positions.

Opera House Players LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, weekends at Enfield Annex
November 7-23.

Enfield Community Chorus Winter Holiday Concerts, December 13th 7pm,
December 14th 3pm Enfield Annex

Enfield Public Library Festival of Trees is Dec. 18th

Enfield Winter Markets, Nov. 29th-Dec. 21, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-2pm, Enfield Annex. Free for artists, artisans, and crafters.

ECAC checked out: ART SQUASH!, Jack-o-Lantern Festival

Treasurer's Report

October spent money on Art Squash related expenses. Facebook ads for Art Squash, Christina Tetreault Soda bar, pizza. Artist's connect and more Facebook ads related to the Artist's connect. We were on budget. The 2nd payment for Thompson Hall and lighting for Art Squash.

A separate budget was kept for Art Squash because it was over 2 fiscal years. \$6200 budgeted, including initial design work for the logo \$600, ECAC \$5000 general support, Community Development \$500 and \$100 Facebook ads came in \$345.88 under budget.

Joyce will share an Excel sheet, to show a refund for a percentage of the merchandising that was sold that night.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

An RFP (Request for Proposals) went out for the use of the Annex in a Town Council meeting last month, an RFP was put out for the use of the Enfield Annex.

The winter festival will be held in the Annex cafeteria.

TC Liaison's Remarks

Not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not present

Old Business

Update: Vin Cassotta-3 History of Jazz concerts for the Elementary Schools will all be in 2026 and easier to tie to the America 250.

Young voices for ECAC–revisit in Dec. Enfield has the Youth Council radio show at Asnuntuck. Emily will give them a call to see if they are interested in joining us.

ECAC Storage update and next steps. We have been outgrowing our storage at the Annex, Emily has been looking for other options and corresponding with Rubin Gabriel, Head of Facilities. ECAC materials have been moved to the corner of the Chorus room, there is concern about space with the ArtSquash art installation pieces. No one notified ECAC about the moving of our materials. Joyce said that the Art Squash materials are still being stored in the closet at Thompson Hall.

Jason wonders if we should consider a storage unit for our materials.

Artists Connect update/feedback

The meetings will be continuing, they have a Facebook page now. Yesterday they met at an artist's house in Enfield. The ArtSquash artists got together to draw. Jason received a request for their November 22nd meeting at the Kebab House, meeting stipend.

Past locations have been at Angelina's, Kings Donut's, and Sarapes.

New Business

Enfield Community Chorus Concert Sponsor request–VOTE

We have a quorum, vote for sponsoring Enfield Community Chorus Concert. Joyce made a motion to vote \$500, Dan 2nd, all voted in favor to sponsor the event.

ECAC member updates: Marilyn Cowles will be joining the commission, Debbi Kruzel will not be continuing with the commission, a card will be signed at our December meeting.

Art Squash debrief: it was something innovative for Thompsonville, the amount of work that Joyce put in was infinite and the event was a great

success. Joyce wanted a more formal food option, but the pizza worked well. It was so easy to deliver and was easy to clean up, and a good budget item that everybody enjoyed.

Joyce was in shock at the amount of people who claim she is glad that good things came out of it, a group of artists that can grow more next year. A number of Town Councilors and the Mayor attended. 2 videos have been shared, the TV station is still working on their video and can be used for next year's promotions. For next year's breakfast, have the video presentation and invitations available. We can work with the North Central Chamber of Commerce more next year during the planning of the event for more support. The coordinating committee can work on more sponsorships for next year's event.

Joyce loved Nzima's poem that she shared at ArtSquash. As the poet laureate, she is doing so many wonderful events for the community. It brought a wonderful fusion of art to the event.

Art Squash Coordinating Committee—table for December meeting.

2026 Budget: unknown when the budget is new based on the new Town Manager. He wants the department's operating budgets in by December 31. It would be a good idea for the commission to have it ready by then. Suggestion for the cost of a storage unit to build it into the budget. Jason will check into the costs for storage units for prices. To protect our assets, inventory, and items. The choices of impacting our storage at the Annex will impact our budget with the need for alternate storage items. Joyce will share pictures of the fixtures at Thompson Hall. Emily will take a photo of the ECAC materials in the Chorus room, Room 303 at the Annex. We will begin working on the budget.

Torchlight Parade is 12/7—who will attend: Donna and Emily will be in attendance. Check in with Nzima re: poem, we have to check with Nzima about attending the event

Miscellaneous

The next meeting is December 2nd in person in the Scitico Room.

Reminders: Build a Tree at EPL is 12/13 at 9:30, Jason will check with Kristen for when the donations can be dropped off at the library for the event.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Secretary.