

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

April 7, 2026, 6:30pm

Roll Call:

Jason Neeley, Joyce Bolanos, Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Nzima Hutchings, Danielle Brown, Kathie Albee

Not Present: Marilyn Cowles, Chris Gann

Special Guest:

Kathie Albee, board secretary from Enfield Community Chorus shared that they are celebrating their 50th anniversary and will be performing a patriotic themed concert to celebrate their anniversary as well as America 250. Their Spring concert will be held at Enfield High School, titled Stars, Stripes, and Song on May 2nd at 3:00pm. The Enfield Community Chorus is asking for a sponsorship of \$500 toward the event.

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting:

Joyce made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes, Danielle 2nd, all voted in favor.

Chairperson's remarks:

April is National Poetry Month.

Enfield Community Poetry Festival is on Saturday, April 25th 11am-4pm.

Enfield High School Lamplighters Spring musical is this weekend, they will be performing "Freaky Friday".

The Enfield Public Library will be hosting the following events:

- Community Drum Circle on April 15th at 6:00pm.
- A presentation "Enfield: Then and Now with Jim Malley from the Enfield Historical Society on April 17 at 6pm.
- The American Revolution by Ken Burns (movie highlights) and introduction by CT Public Radio's Lucy Nalpathanchil. The event is part of the Enfield America 250 celebration.

Enfield Community Chorus will host a Stars, Stripes and Song! Concert on May 2 at 3pm in the Enfield High School auditorium.

Opera House Players will perform Merrily We Roll Along, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from May 1-May 17.

Joyce Bolanos is being recognized as “Immigrant of the Year”, she will receive her proclamation at the State Capital on April 23 from 3pm-5pm.

Treasurer’s report:

The current balance is \$14,791. Since last meeting: \$500 was paid to Cheryle Faye, Art Squash postcards and canvases were ordered, social media boost, artist stipend., donation of \$500 to Enfield High School Art Show, ECAC domain name renewal, 2 Vin Cassotta concerts paid, 1 pending, Concert Series domain name renewal.

Staff Liaison’s remarks:

Cheryle Faye/Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation at the Enfield Senior Center was well received. There were 90 people in attendance.

Reminder to email upcoming events to Town Council and Board of Education Liaison’s for shared updates during Town meetings.

Emily will share the community sign board link with Joyce to fill out the request form for Art Squash.

Town Council and BOE Liaison’s remarks:

Not present.

Old business:

Vin Cassotta will perform his History of Jazz Concert at Prudence Crandall on June 8, 9:30am. Summer Concert Series update: the committee will hold a meeting next week. The concert series will be shorter than previous years.

Nzima had ideas for adult art at the concert series with canvas painting, easels and artist instruction. Danielle will check Amazon for pricing for canvas kits, when we have the concert schedule we will look into pairing themes with the artist performing.

A motion was made for \$800 to purchase kids crafts for the concert series by Joyce, Nzima 2nd, all voted in favor.

Emily will go to the Annex for an ECAC swag inventory and will add ordering to the May agenda.

Poet Laureate Update:

Nzima was a judge for the CT State Poets. Winners will be participating in the Enfield Poetry Festival at the library.

The Enfield Poetry club is going well. Costco pizza was provided for dinner refreshments.

The Enfield Community Poetry Festival will be held on April 25. Nzima is looking for help to pass out T-shirts, take in signs, set up and clean up. She is looking into food trucks for refreshments during the festival, she will need to check with the town for permission. Jason confirmed that Enfield Softball opening day is Sunday and will not impact parking for the Poetry festival. In the future, we can look into the Enfield High School culinary department to provide refreshments for the event. Emily will share the contact information for Chef O with Nzima. The poetry festival will be indoor/outdoor if weather permitting.

Set up will be at 9am, the event will be 11am-4pm. Nzima will be dropping off some materials Friday afternoon between 12-2:30pm. She is looking for volunteers from 3-5pm to clean up and break down. Danielle can help with cleaning up. Joyce will be there with a table. Emily will be there at the end of the day due to a prior commitment. Emily will bring the ECAC banner to the library.

The Red Tea Poetry event went well. The event was held February 13-14. Joyce and Emily attended. Marilyn helped set up the night before. The event featured visual and literary art/artists. Art was displayed, poets shared their work. We would like to continue the Red Tea event in the future. Suggested advertising through the Patch and shared with different towns. Joyce has a videographer contact that she will share for future events as well.

Nzima will be hosting a Juneteenth event on June 19 from 4-7pm at the Enfield Historical Society featuring arts, culture, poetry, and refreshments.

We discussed scheduling event marketing 2 months in advance of the events for marketing and promotion.

Art Squash Updates:

Danielle, Nzima, and Marilyn came to the Soiree at the Enfield Historical Society. Danielle, Nzima, Marilyn, and Jason will be participating in this year's Art Squash event. The Soiree event was well attended, attendees chose their buildings for the Art Squash event.

Joyce will have a wall of borrowed art work from painted buildings around Thompsonville.

We need to plan a future brainstorming meeting. What we have, what we want? Discussed an Art History corner at the Enfield Historical Society.

There are currently 30 artists signed up for Art Squash. Another call for artists will go out in June, Joyce's goal is to add 20 more artists.

New business:

Enfield Women's Club/Enfield Public Schools Art Show at Enfield High School Cafeteria, ECAC Table Friday 7-9pm Emily and Danielle will be at the ECAC table with the Banner and Swag. Emily will take the banner to the library for Saturday's Poetry festival. Donna will be at the ECAC table Saturday 12-3pm and will clean up.

Visual Art Presentation by Danielle for Enfield Dogs fiberglass sculptures. We have discussed eagles in Enfield. Danielle shared the Dogs of Enfield idea. She has met with Jane G, State Rep of Windsor/Windsor Locks and can get a packet of information for what they have done in the past with the dog sculptures.

A company out west makes fiberglass sculptures. Eagles cost \$2000. Dogs range from \$895-\$5495. They offer all types of dogs, for example Dachshunds, Huskies, Great Danes, Bull Dogs. There can be small business sponsorships based on tiers for cost depending on dog type. Danielle can work with Economic Development to pitch to local businesses.

Call to artists to create designs for the dogs. We would host a sponsor night, lay out all the dogs. Sponsors would choose a dog and write a check. Artists would create the dog paintings. We would serve refreshments like wine and cheese.

Events to extend the project include: Parade, reading at the library, merchandise featuring cards and calendars, scavenger hunt across town.

Danielle met with Aaron. We will need to go to the Town Council for approval. Danielle and Aaron will pitch to sponsors, and give tasks to ECAC.

Questions: How long do sculptures stay up on display?

Timeline: year timeline. Discussed May 2027: Sponsor dinner/show

We will revisit the idea at our May meeting, come up with ideas, questions, and stylized concepts.

A motion was made for \$500 to the Enfield Community Chorus Spring Concert by Danielle, Nzima 2nd, all voted in favor.

Miscellaneous:

In our May meeting we will discuss ideas for Poetry Readings under the Band Shell, possibly Farmer's Market Sundays.

We will revisit the electrical box discussions. Jason resent the prior email regarding the electrical box information.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 8:13pm