

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

May 5, 2026, 6:30pm

Roll Call:

Jason Neely, Joyce Bolanos, Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Nzima Hutchings, Danielle Brown, Marilyn Cowles, Chris Gann, Lori Unghire

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting:

Jason shared 2 edits to April minutes, Donna will correct and resubmit.

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

Chairperson's remarks:

Opera House Players' spring show is Merrily We Roll Along , (the production runs weekends May 8-17, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm) at the Enfield Annex. During the shows, OHP has arranged temporary Art installations that follow the theme of the show.

That is something for us to think about for visual art displays.

Emily shared America's 250th in Enfield Community Events flyer featuring events from 4/29-12/19. Additional events and details can be found at www.enfieldcultureandartscommission.org/america-250

5/19 5:30pm: Dedication of Veterans' Banners Ceremony at Higgins Park, 5pm featuring the Enfield High School Marching Band to perform. Jason added that the library is providing a digital add on with QR codes on flag poles that will link to the veterans biographies.

5/20 6pm: Meet the Author: The Traitor's Homecoming. Matthew Reardon: Benedict Arnold at the Enfield Public Library.

5/27 Michael Miller: Enfield's Shaker Community

June 17, 6pm: Meet John Adams-A Witty and Revolutionary Conversations with America's Second President, at the Enfield Public Library.

Summer Concerts and ECAC websites are posted on the Town of Enfield website under "Community". We will update the website with the new commissioner's and liaison's information.

Treasurer's report:

Current balance is \$14391. Paid \$500 Enfield Community Chorus concert, \$400 signorama for community board sign. There will be Summer concert series expenses coming up. Funds for kids crafts have been approved but not spent yet.

Staff Liaison's remarks:

Joyce, Chris (filled Dan's vacant position that is expiring), and Nzima are all up for reappointment and will need to reapply. Cheryl and Jason will send the link to reapply.

The summer concert series is pending 1 act, then will be released.

Town Council Liaison's remarks:

Lori would like to participate in Art Squash. Joyce shared the information for this year's event and will send an application including the agreement, dates, deadlines, and information to go to the Historical Society to have any historical building photo printed out. ECAC has a canvas to provide to artists if they want to use the canvas.

BOE Liaison's: not present

Old business:

Emily and Danielle represented ECAC at the Enfield Public Schools Arts Festival Friday night. We are running out of SWAG items. Emily did inventory, we have a few more 3 inch buttons left and branded colored pencils. We discussed ordering more colored pencils with the drawing pad, creating mini-grant 1 page hand-outs, ECAC stickers, acrylic sign holders, more postcards with updated website information. Joyce suggested a creation of a similar ECAC cute mascot for kids(aimed at young artists middle & high school age). Magnetic bag clips with our logo was also suggested. We will review the SWAG order next month.

Joyce will send the video for Art Squash to be added to the website.

Summer Concert Series Update:

The concert series will be shorter than last year running Tuesday nights, June 9th - August 18th. (rain date is scheduled for Wednesday). The series will kick off with Vin Cassotta's Jazz Swing-American Song Book. August 4th will be National Night Out. \$14,500 in sponsorships were received from USA Waste and Recycling, Winstanly, and Artioli. An additional \$1200 will be paid from ECAC.

The band roster will be sent out by the end of the week.

ECAC table at the concerts can share information for other organizations' events.
We will have a kids crafts table geared toward younger kids.

Danielle, Nzima and Chris will work together to plan a summer concert series "Painting in the Park event" the event will be designed as a paint social. Chris and Nzima have table top easels. We can request additional tables from buildings and grounds and cover them with disposable table cloths. The event will be intended for 13+-adult age groups. They will meet to discuss supplies needed: including canvas, brushes, paints. The date will be matched with the theme of the band.

We also discussed ECAC sponsoring a musical artist for 1 week of the Farmers market.

Enfield Dogs update:

Danielle explained the project featuring the fiberglass dogs, similar to what the town of Windsor had done. She will come up with a project proposal. We discussed the company she researched, "Cow Painters". Joyce suggested specifying service dogs or a military focus: Red Cross, Fire Department, Police dogs. We also discussed the goal of the project: color, interest to boost morale versus significant meaning.

Lori shared a handout of a collection of ideas that represent Enfield and her research on the project from when she was our liaison a few years ago, sharing different fiberglass structures with a historical representation: a Powder Keg or a Drum (in honor of Thomas Abbe) as well as eagles. The project can be territorial, featuring a variety of shapes throughout the sections of town. The company that Lori contacted is located in Wisconsin. For a large order, the company will drive out the order in a big truck in one shipment.

Art Squash Updates:

Joyce submitted a Farmer's Market application. A new Facebook campaign will be launched on 6/1 (included in the budget). Joyce is waiting for a response from Mark Dube and Angela Aviles for a connection with the seniors in the AP Art Class. Emily will support Joyce to make the school connections.

Marilyn discussed the expansion to other grade levels to partner with the high school teachers for recommendations for future development of the students, with the desire to make the event more accessible to more people. We discussed Joyce's vision of Art Squash from last year to this year.

Joyce will be interested in a Public Access TV spot for Art Squash.

It was shared with Lori that Joyce was recognized as Immigrant of the Year at the State Capital. Joyce will share the information via email with Lori.

Poet Laureate Update:

The Poetry Festival had a great turnout, much larger than last year. Nzima received great feedback from participants. The event also featured a donated canned goods drive for the Enfield Food Shelf. Poet Laureates from New London, Hartford, and Rockville attended as well. Participants received awards, certificates, and trophies. Visual artists participated and poetically shared their artist stories. The festival included workshops, interviews, symposium, visual arts, and poems about teapots. Vendors participated via donations. ECAC volunteered to help set up and promote the events. The Patch boost went well to share the information.

The Enfield Poetry Club was integrated into the festival and participated at a Showcase in front of the audience. The club also published a book and read poems for participants at the Poetry Festival.

Feedback for next year is to ask for a donation fee for vendor participation. The event was supposed to be indoor/outdoor but due to the cooler temperatures, it was held inside only. We discussed moving the event to the Annex for next year. We also discussed having additional signage for the A-frame saying "Open to the Public" for publicity as well as a longer time of advertising for next year.

New business:

Miscellaneous:

Alex Ranniello will be tabling for Enfield America 250 on Saturday at St. Martha's Craft Fair.

The Intercommunity Gallery of East Hartford is having an America 250 Celebration called "Breaking Free". 4 Enfield artists will be displaying their work: Brian Ouellette, Chris Tetrault, Chris Gann, and Sam Bousquet.

Chris Gann will also have 3 exhibitions going including with Andre Rochester at the Chelsea Gallery on the UCONN campus.

We will talk more about exhibit space at next month's meeting.

Emily announced that the Vice Chair position on ECAC is vacant and available for anyone who is interested.

We will hold a special zoom meeting on Thursday, 5/14 at 8:30PM to vote on the Painting in the Park supplies budget.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn 7:57PM by Nzima, 2nd by Chris.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 PM