

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

June 2, 2026, 6:30pm

Roll Call:

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

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting:

Marilyn made a motion to approve the minutes from 5/5/26 and 5/14/26 meetings, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor of approving minutes.

Chairperson's remarks:

Vin Cassotta completed the last of the 3 elementary school concerts.

The micro-essay contest winners for America 250 were announced at last night's Town Council Meeting.

The 4th of July celebration will feature the America 250 traveling tent.

Summer concerts start next Tuesday 6/9 with Vin Cassotta, A Touch of Jazz, the American Songbook. There will be food trucks and kids crafts.

Pearl Street Library's next art show will be on 6/25 featuring Emily Birdsey and Callie Glockenberg. The artist reception will be held from 5:30-7:00pm.

Treasurer's report:

The concert series sign has been purchased.

The PO for the Amazon paint in the park supplies is still waiting on the order to be received (Danielle forwarded the email to Jason during the meeting, date of event is still TBD).

The last check for Vin Cassotta has been sent out.

Kids craft supplies and storage supply totes have been ordered.

The current balance is \$12,941.

Staff Liaison's remarks:

Concert supplies are in Jason's office at the Library.

The library created webpages for all of the Rotary Club Banners featuring all the veteran's bios.

Town Council Liaison's remarks:

Lori shared information about the fiberglass mascots.

BOE Liaison's: not present

Old Business:

SWAG-Emily will look for options, commission members can share ideas at the next meeting or via email. We will look into getting an updated pop-up banner.

Art Squash Updates:

The Historical Society will be printing the old pictures of buildings for Art Squash.

Joyce has been in contact with Mark Dube and Angela from Enfield High School. She has delivered 4 canvases from the library and gave postcards to be distributed to the students.

Joyce is waiting to talk to Mark Dube about the Jazz band performing on Saturday at Art Squash.

Joyce is also interested in an America 250 connection at Art Squash.

Joyce is exploring the idea of a 4x6 wooden chair with a Squash as advertisement for the event rather than the sign. Artist Connect will be gathering this summer. The artists will work together to create the part piece using supplies of :beach balls, plastic and stucco paint. The chair will be a public performance art display, at a location with good lighting. It can be displayed during the Farmer's Market and near the Annex.

Poet Laureate Update:

Nzima will be speaking at the Hartford Bonanza, 250 Celebration on July 4th in Hartford, CT with other area Poet Laureates.

Nzima can reach out to Maya Matthews about the July 4th Enfield Celebration.

The Enfield Poetry Club

Nzima is signing up for the Fall Cohort. She is looking for refreshments of snacks and coffee.

Marilyn made a motion to approve \$250 toward refreshments for the Enfield Poetry Club, Chris 2nd, all voted in favor.

Fiberglas sculpture update:

Joyce suggested "Sully the Peacock" as a symbol of Modern Enfield pop culture.

Lori has a list of the top 5 manufacturers and is thinking about sponsorships. She has a list of all of the churches in town and has a meeting scheduled to speak with Artioli for sponsorship. She can call companies in Enfield.

Lori questioned which organization would be best for the project using the historical sculptures, ECAC or the Enfield Historical Society which is under new leadership with Shannon Essingler.

The decision is between Animal sculptures with a colorful art focus or the historical aspect.

Lori shared that we will save on shipping with the more sculptures that we order.

The desire is for the sculptures to be sustainable, a durational item like an eagle, drum, powder keg, or tobacco barn to represent Enfield.

We discussed purchasing 1 or 2 peacocks to position around town near the peacock sightings between Post Rd and Prior Rd, most recently.

Nzima suggested holding onto the old and the new for creativity, sparks. A collaboration of the old and new. Energy for the young people to participate, build something out of it and create history. The peacock is a flamboyant animal.

The goal is to have 20 different painted fiberglass sculptures.

We can hit the viral trend with the peacock, make the connection with Windsor with the variety of dogs, and have the historical objects.

Danielle presented "Eagles in flight" ranging in cost from \$1,200-\$2,000. Using the manufacturer "Icon Polly" and the CT Public Portal "Creative Ground" for proposals. Danielle presented a timeline for May 2027 where sponsors would choose eagles and collaborate with different businesses. The project goal would be August 2027. In the Winter 2026/2027 we can call to artists, Spring 2027 hold a sponsor reception for proposals, Summer-the eagles will be delivered to the DPW station (ECAC should budget for an allotment to DPW for their support with the project, receiving the delivery and organizing pickup of the sculptures). Artists would have 4 weeks to paint the eagles and bring the sculptures to the sponsor locations. A "flight map" would be created with a map of the placed eagles. Awards for each artist could be a \$500 stipend.

The eagle sculptures would belong to the Town of Enfield, and the project would be presented at a Town Council and Board of Education meeting presentation.

Discussion around the 2 different molds based on pricing, artist presentation of mock-ups, concerns about size, weight, shape, if too small can be stolen, with wide spread wings, kids would climb on them and they will break.

Lori will work to drum up sponsors.

ECAC can network through Artist connect. The group supports communications and can publicize with America 250, lots of activity, pride and patriotism can carry into 2027.

Next steps would be to form a subcommittee: Danielle, Lori, Marilyn, and Emily.

Joyce would like 1 peacock and to form a Sully Social Media page.

We discussed the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant, the deadline is in June, we can apply for it next year.

New business:

There is no meeting or concert scheduled for July 7th. We will not meet in July. August has historically been scheduled as a virtual meeting if it is needed. Our next in person meeting will be on September 1st.

Storage at Fermi has been moved to rooms 303 and 305 (the Enfield Community Chorus Rooms). Emily can contact the custodians to open the rooms. There is a wagon and an elevator to move the supplies. Emily can bring ECAC board members for a tour of where the supplies are located.

Printing options and budget

Summer Concert Series Update:

Summer Concert Series Sign-up dates:

6/9 Marilyn & Emily will be in attendance

6/16

6/23 Jason will be away

6/30 Emily will be away, Danielle, Donna and Nzima will be in attendance

7/14

7/21

7/28

8/4 (National Night Out) Jason, Emily and Donna will be away. Danielle and Chris will be in attendance

8/11

8/18

Emily, Danielle, and Donna will be at as many concerts as possible.

Volunteers can arrive around 6:00pm for set up. Buildings & Grounds will set up the tent, table and chairs. Emily will be checking to see if the kids craft storage bin can be stored with the tent as well to minimize transporting from the library or the Annex.

ECAC sets up the kids crafts table and introduces the band with Steve (if they want, or Steve will introduce the band himself).

There is a clicker to walk around and count the attendees which is good information to have for each show.

Miscellaneous:

Alex shared that he will be participating in 2 events this Thursday, June 4, 2026 around the new Britain or Farmington area from 2-4pm at the UConn health campus at the Celeste LeWitt gallery He has several paintings old and new on display + my next event is in downtown New Britain at gallery 66 (66 Main st). 4-6pm for the unveiling of a community art project.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 8:03pm