

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
December 3, 2024, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Jason Neeley, Nzima Hutchings

Not present: Dan Keating, Debi Kruzel, BOE Liaison, TC Liaison

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes from our November meeting made by Nzima, 2nd by Joyce with an edit made to the November meeting minutes changing the Enfield Fencing Club to "New England Blades Fencing Club"

Special Guests

Vincent Cassotta former music teacher from Enfield Public Schools and former ECAC member from back in the 1980's. He would like to do more Touch of Jazz concerts at Parkman and Crandall. He would charge the same price as the mini grant request for \$500, concerts are structured like a lesson, they are interactive with the students to keep their interests. He also has a variety of other concert music he can offer in the future as well. The timeline for the Parkman and Crandall concerts would be before winter break.

Vin has an upcoming concert at the Senior Center on Friday, Dec 13 at 1:30pm, at their Hot Chocolate Social.

He can get us quotes for the larger bands: Sounds of Frank and the Louis Armstrong larger band for future concerts.

Chairperson's Report

Donna and Emily attended the Rock of Ages production at OHP

The Jazz Concert was held at Eli Whitney School

Donna attended the Lamplighters Fall Production at the high school.

The Build a Tree event will be held at the Enfield Public Library on Saturday, 12/14 from 9:30-11:00

Festival of Trees at the Enfield Public Library will be held on Thursday, Dec 19 from 6:30-7:30

Treasurer's Report

balance is \$38,588.26. The budget amount has been allocated but has not been transferred into our account.

Recent expenses are:

\$500 for the Vincent Cassotta Concert

\$489.25 for the library t-shirts

\$119.57 for the library 150th celebration

\$600 for Sarah, the Art Squash Design deposit

\$500 for Enfield Community Chorus

\$81.03 for the Library's Build a tree making supplies

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Our Open Mic commitment with Kevin Crane expires in December 2024, we will discuss continuing it into 2025.

The library's 150th celebration was a nice turnout, there are ideas to bring to the town's 250th celebration

Suggestions were to sing Happy Birthday, have live social media coverage and invite Enfield Public access. There will be a Google Doc created to keep adding suggestions.

TC Liaison's Remarks

Not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not present

Old Business:

Joyce is inquiring if the Art Squash Signs to be hung on the outside of the Thompson Hall building will require permits from the town. Jason will check into that.

We discussed the Thompson Hall venue accessibility concerns for the upstairs Art Squash event space. Joyce explained that artists can use the lift in the back of the building to bring larger materials up.

The entry ways can be measured, and the dimensions can be shared with the artists.

There was no commitment made with Frank Salas for the concert series at Thompson Hall.

He should plan a networking event for community vendors and organizations to draw attention for Thompson Hall. His next big event will be on Dec.14 a Wrestlemania event.

Emily is working on the Purchasing document flow chart for ECAC purchases for future reference by commission members to be familiar with the purchasing process.

Alex R. is on the 250th celebration committee and is looking for 9 people on the committee.

We discussed having a networking event for all commissions to talk about the grant processes. Invited would be town commissions, boards, community organizations. We could use the Fairfield Inn as a venue. Joyce and Nzima would like the event to be an ECAC initiative, hosted by ECAC at the Fairfield Inn. Joyce will talk to Alex to share the ideas and discuss a timeframe. Commissions could attend and do a presentation about who they are, what their commissions objectives are within 3 powerpoint slides.

We discussed doing the event in March 2025, on a weekday from 5:30-8:00PM

The contact information for commissions and boards are available on the town website, Jason will forward the link.

Future networking events could include community growth groups, art teachers, school department heads, theater groups and the BOE.

We will review the boards and commissions to choose the boards that would be a good fit for the invite list, we will plan on speaking at the Town Council meeting to share information about the event.

There is no update for Poetry in Enfield, Emily will reach out to the literacy director.

New Business:

Emily attended a PTO meeting and is suggesting that we attend the PTO meetings at the Enfield Schools to make connections with parents who are planning the school's events: Artists, drama productions, music. Nzima should get into the schools with her poetry.

The town has a new social media staff member at HR and the Town Manager's office, Stephany Burby, sburby@enfield.org. She will be handling advertising for the town events.

The ECAC website is live, board members should google "Enfield Culture and Arts" website, click and share it.

Heritage Fair 2025 will be at JFK, the contact person is Hannah Song, hsong@enfield.org

We discussed continuing Open Mic for the next 6 months, we talked about adjusting the formatting and the time/day of the event.

Nzima is thinking about poetry clubs for kids and adults, and genre specific. We discussed having Poet Laureate events in a classroom at the Annex and will check into availability for space.

Enfield Youth & Family Services hosting Winter Traditions event on December 12th at 6:00pm at Alcorn 1010 Enfield St.

Miscellaneous

2025 future planning:

Arts & Culture space, similar to the Windsor Arts Center

Art Squash event

Improving the aesthetics of event space to be rustic and swanky

incorporating wall hanging installations in the library's community room

The library community room can't be the only space for all things

Is there a space available at the Annex for the Town Poet Laureate

Torchlight parade was much better this year than last year featuring the High School's chamber choir, , Nzima read an original poem

Safe Harbor will not be serving hot chocolate next year

For future Torchlight parade events, we should look into hiring performers to talk about the parade route to get people in the spirit and to add more energy, offer character photos

future visions: have a band (Vincent Cassotta) to play ahead of the parade, hire Wonderland Works Characters, have a toy drive, food drive, socks, hats & scarves drive

2025 goals

Nzima-Poetry for a Cause, collecting scarves, hats, gloves, socks, charity drive, collect diapers and books

Get Poet Laureate into the schools

ECAC to give away tickets to local Enfield shows

Focus more on Cultural events

Have a Tea Party Event on the Town Green. During Farmer's Market, set up tents, and tables.

Provide hot water for hot tea, offer cold tea. Have easels set up to display teas around the world. Invite Alex to paint a mural of a teacup. Participants can bring their favorite teacup.

Partner with the senior center and Beautification committee.

Have cultural events and give the opportunity for people who are artists to come sing and feature art at the events.

Make connections to other cultural events

Invite Kevin Crane to our next ECAC meeting on Jan 7th to discuss 6 more months of Open Mic, we will pause January due to January 1st being the first Wednesday and resume in February if decided.

Work with Enfield Youth and Family Services, through Social services

Connect with Asnuntuck too and identify other community organizations

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board Secretary