

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2025 8:00pm via Teams

Roll Call:

Jason Neeley, Emily Clifford, Dan Keating, Joyce Bolanos, Donna Hamre. Not present: Nzima Hutchings, Debbi Kruzel

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

Meeting minutes May 27, 2025. Joyce accepted, Dan 2nd. All approved

Chairperson's remarks

National Night Out was a success. Notes for next year to plan a family friendly band for that time slot. Far and away the largest night we've had yet at the Band Shell. Teens and adults loved the act. Christopher helped at the ECAC tent and the kids were making bracelets all night long. Jason was the photographer for the event. People came from other towns for the event. National Night Out is always the first Tuesday in August.

Valley Student Theater included many Enfield students and performed Something Rotten. Opera House Players will be featuring a Young Performers Concert this Saturday.

Emily attended the Tiny art exhibit at the library. She appreciated the library's thoughtfulness to schedule the event on open mic night.

One of our Open Mic young performers who often performs Elvis songs has been selected to perform at Graceland this weekend.

Treasurer's Report

Paid:

\$500 was paid to Frank Salas for the Thompson Hall Rental for Art Squash

Vin Cassotta was paid for 2 concerts

Oriental Trading Concert Supplies ordered

June expensed for 4 concerts in the concert series and production fees for Suffield Sound

Custom Ink Tshirts

Website and domain name renewal

ArtSquash reimbursement

Amazon

Social Media promotions

Vistaprint postcards and stand up banners for Art Squash, due to order error, we got 2 extra replacements with cross bars to stand. A banner has been hung in the window at Thompson Hall

Our balance carryover is \$7844.97, we did well spending money this year. We have been approved for the \$22,000 FY 2026 budget, the funds are not yet in our account.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

There were 80 submissions for the Tiny Art Show at the library, reception was held last night. The event rolled into the Open Mic which went well.

Our November meeting will need to be changed due to Election night, the 2nd Tuesday is Veteran's day. After discussion it was decided to keep our meeting on the first Tuesday and move to virtual.

Community Development will support Art Squash with \$500 for catering and refreshments

Our new town council liaison will be Marie Pyznar, she will be attending every other meeting due to conflicts with other meetings.

TC Liaison's Remarks
Not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks
Not Present

Old Business

Art Squash Update:

Frank allowed ECAC to use the space for 1 hour with a few fixtures set up. 9 artists showed up and exchanged numbers, they were excited and enthusiastic. The artists represent a variety of ages. Nzima recorded video and took pictures. 37 letters of acceptance have been sent out. Only half of the artists have sent bios and signed the contract.

Jason will print the bios of a ½ sheet of cardstock for the event.

Joyce has enough fixtures, everything is coming along. The additional fixtures cost \$60. Joyce has been collecting bottles and cans and selling t-shirts. T-shirts will be available this Sunday at the Farmers Market.

1 last digital artist submission has been accepted past the deadline, all interested artists were admitted.

Joyce emailed the link to Amazon for a 120" Projector Screen for Art Squash. Motion to approve up to \$100 to order the screen made by Dan, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

New Business

Poet Laureate Stipend

Motion to approve the \$500 stipend for Nzima. Dan made the motion, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

Minigrant #1: Senior Center

Proposal: Sheryl Faye: Historical Women Performance. Artist to perform as Ruth Bader Ginsbert at the Enfield Senior Center in September or October 2025. Fee \$500. The expected audience is 40-60 people, and the event will be open to the general public. Emily will confirm the time of the event and if recording is possible. Joyce made a motion to approve, Dan 2nd, all voted in favor.

Minigrant #2: Artists Connect

Artist Connect-Artist meeting space proposal. This proposal represents an artists networking opportunity for ArtSquash to be gallery ready for October. The location of the meetings will be

held in the Thompsonville district. Exact location may change due to availability and space capacity required. Discussed locations were the Pearl Street library, Sarapes, Black Crow Coffee, The proposal requested \$500. Discussion about \$50 per month to be requested once the date is set. Organizing artists will be set up as a vendor for the town to have the check cut. Fee will be issued on a month by month basis. Artists will work with Jason and Linda directly to turn in receipts for vendor accountability. The first meeting will be held on August 23 at Sarapes. Joyce has arranged for space and refreshments of Hibiscus Tea and chips. An alternative discussed was to have local restaurants set up as direct vendors by completing a W-9. Arrangements can be made directly with the restaurant for refreshments totaling \$50 for the individual events. Emily will talk directly to the artists Bryan and Sam to explain the vendor process. They will choose a date and the restaurant. Get a receipt or invoice from the restaurant for reimbursement. If the group can create a calendar of recurring meeting dates in advance it will support the check cutting process. Joyce made a motion, Emily 2nd, all voted in favor.

Minigrant #3: Enfield Street School Blacktop Project

Enfield Street School is arranging a blacktop mural by artist Ollie B. The mural is being arranged through the Enfield Street School PTO fundraising efforts. The total cost of the project is \$4000 and the mural will be intended to last 8-10 years with maintenance and touchups as needed. Motion to approve \$800 for the project made by Dan, 2nd by Joyce, all voted in favor. Suggestion for photo of project to recognize ECAC for the donation.

Grant Proposal: Melissa Woodyard. Painting and Changing Lives

Proposal features a 6 session expressive arts workshop event, free to participants. The submitted proposal was not in a mini grant format. We discussed the proposal and are requesting more information.

Miscellaneous

We have 3 people interested in joining our commission. Interested people will be invited to our September meeting for introductions and to learn more about each other prior to appointment on September 2, 2025, time will be changed to 6:00pm to allow for Town Council Liaison to attend. Dan won't be present at the meeting due to a work conflict.

Joyce questioned storage options for the Art Squash fixtures following the event. Is there space at the Annex? Emily will help explore options for additional ECAC Storage.

Adjournment

9:40pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Secretary