

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2025 Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:00pm

Roll Call:

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

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

Meeting minutes August 7, 2025. Joyce made a motion to accept Donna 2nd, all voted in favor.

Special Guests:

We have an open position on our commission, prospective ECAC applicants were invited to attend the meeting as an introduction. Christina Tetreault introduced herself to the commission board.

The commission members shared a little about their experience with ECAC, highlighting the events that we frequently participate in or new initiatives. Monthly meetings, Open Mic night at the library the first Wednesday of the month, Art Squash, first annual visual art exhibition Oct 17 Open Reception, 18, and 19. The Torchlight Parade, our Poet Laureate usually reads an original poem, Women's Club K-12 Arts Festival, Heritage Fair, Jack-o-Lantern Festival, Family Day Sidewalk Chalk contest, Pearl Street Library Art Installation, Artist Exhibitions, Mini Grant Programs, Artist Meet-up monthly networking. The Instrument Lending Library that started with an ECAC Mini Grant. Tiny Art Show, and other memorable mini grant projects.

It was explained that we need to build up our volunteer base to support initiatives like the Summer Concert Series and Art Squash. ECAC is limited by the projects we run by the lack of manpower. We want members to be as active as possible and as communicative as possible. The commission has 7 board members with 1 vacancy. We currently have 6 consistent board members.

Marie is our new Town Council Liaison and shared her vision for the commission. To include more young people, to have everything wrapped in the arts, our town is full of talented people who can't find a voice. Suggestions of a chili cook off, host a chili festival and charge an entrance fee, host cooking contests.

Marie asked that we email her with anything we would like her to share out at the Town Council meeting for what events we have coming up.

We explained to Christina that the Town Council ultimately makes the final decision on appointments.

Chairperson's remarks

The Summer Concert Series is over. The last concert was our biggest attendance. Dial-a-ride brought Parkway residents to the concert which was a great opportunity, the weather was a factor for attendance earlier in the season.

Treasurer's Report

There was \$7800 rolled over, we received the entire \$22,000 budget ask.

In July, the Art Squash banners were paid for, the EPS mural mini grant, the Poet Laureate stipend, kids crafts, and the Art Squash refreshments.

our current balance is \$27851.87

ECAC should keep in mind concert series funding

Staff Liaison's Remarks

National Night out and the Final Concert were the largest turnouts.

Joyce will notify Jason the link to the screen for Art Squash.

Marie questioned why are we using a private building for Art Squash?

Joyce explained that our goal was to partner with a Thompsonville organization for the venue to help bring Thompsonville into a different light while supporting the Arts. To bring people into the area in advance of the train station.

TC Liaison's Remarks

Marie Pryznar will be our new TC Liaison.

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not Present

Old Business:

Summer Concert Series:

Debbi suggested to Steve to contact John Hammon law firm for funding opportunities.

The concert series planning will begin in January, Steve wants the Concert Series to Grow.

The Concert Series yard signs will be discussed in January, we should put it on the agenda.

A concert series survey will go out for feedback.

Kids crafts were a hit, rubber duckies, visors, slap bracelets, friendship bracelets were all popular.

Art Squash Update:

Joyce will email artist bios to Jason to print on card stock for the event.

The screen will be ordered.

Refreshments of soda from Enfield Produce and Deli will be delivered.

Emily will help to create the program and event schedule

Joyce will be calling for DJ including lights quotes to New England Events, East Windsor, Entertainment Unlimited, Wethersfield, and Scott Ryder (BOE) The goal is to include lighting. Joyce will have sign ups for volunteers needed for Oct 17, 18, and 19. Opening reception will be Oct 17 6pm, Exhibition Saturday 1-5pm, Sunday 1-4pm. Volunteers for Friday should arrive at 5pm. There is no fee for participants or entry this year. We need to establish an Arts Community in Enfield. Understanding that larger cities charge a fee for booths, there is no charge for our first year.

Marie suggested contacting NCCCC for a Ribbon Cutting.

Joyce would like a photographer taking pictures as people arrive at the staircase. She emailed Michelle from Opera House Players to support the event.

The art will be mounted to the fixtures Wed and Thurs prior to the event.

The Art Squash Facebook page is updated

Volunteers will be needed at the TShirt Merchandise table, photographer to take photos as people arrive up the yellow carpet, hand out refreshments (pizza slices and soda for the first 100 people).

The event has been marketed around Enfield and in surrounding towns. It will be featured on the CT Statewide Art events calendar, a public access promo will be recorded and aired, press releases have been sent out.

Marie suggested a photographer who can take photos and using a QR code have the photos viewable on her website for purchase, also suggested were the photography classes at EHS and Asnuntuck.

The next Town Council meetings are 9/15 and 10/6, Marie will mention Art Squash during her comments, she asked Joyce to send her an email with the information.

Poet Laureate updates

Nzima has received a few requests from the Town of Enfield to participate in next year's poetry festival. She is working with the library for the festival in April next year.

Nzima is working on the next cohort of her poetry club. We will add this item to the October meeting agenda for discussion of the first cohort proposal to be duplicated.

Nzima will be speaking at Yale and in Glastonbury and is working on building community longevity.

She has bags and pens for giveaways.

Nzima has received more books for the Poet corner at the library and has added poetry writing prompts. Nzima's work is also on display with the Plaque for the Enfield Poet Laureate names. There is an interest for an Enfield Youth Poet Laureate to replace the Poetry Outloud program. Nzima's Poetry Cafe Public Access TV Show is an award winner, she will be attending a ceremony in Boston. Nzima will email her award details to Marie to share with the Town Council.

Thompsonville Food Tour Update:

Chris Silver, moderator of Enfield Food Forum reached out to Emily at a Summer Concert. She would like to create a walking food tour of Thompsonville. Chris is working with Aaron from Economic Development. The event will be held at Thompson Hall where tables for restaurants will be set up, media will be invited and the goal is to jumpstart and tie in an Enfield Restaurant Week.

Chris is retired and wants to bring attention to Thompsonville. Emily will invite her to attend an upcoming meeting. The Event will be scheduled in the Early Spring. Emily will send an email to the commission members.

New Business

The community board sign has to be reserved way in advance. Marie mentioned that signs throughout town could be a great Eagle Scout Project. We agreed that we need signage throughout the town not just in 1 location

We need to verify signage regulations throughout town. Town property vs private property.

East Windsor has electronic signs at the fire station. We could place signs at every fire station and the schools. Hazardville Methodist Church on Hazard Ave has an electronic sign and it has been successful. There is an electronic sign at JFK displaying the weather.

We discussed a mini grant for Vin Cassotta for \$500 per concert, Parkman, Eli Whitney, and Crandal. He has a new interactive concert featuring the History of Jazz in the United States. We discussed pairing the concerts after January for the America 250th celebration. This has been tabled until the October meeting.

ECAC has a line item in the budget in the amount of \$5000 for America 250th.

Miscellaneous

We would like to discuss having student liaisons from Enfield High School on our commission. Emily will talk to Mark Dube.

The Enfield Society for Thieves and Robbers event will be held on Sept 16 at 5:40 at the Elks Lodge. Tickets are \$30.

Our next meetings are:

October 7 in person

November 4 virtual due to Election night. Debbi and Marie will not be present at the meetings that night.

Adjournment

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Secretary