

Enfield Culture & Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
6:30pm Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call: Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Steph MacGillivray, Jason Neely, Joshua Hamre (via phone) Chris Gann, Dan Keating

Acceptance of August Meeting minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Steph, 2nd by Emily, all voted in favor.

BOE Liaison: Enfield's Own, Cassandra Kubinski, pianist, musical artist who is an Alumni member of Opera House Players in the role of Annie has expressed interest in returning to support the Enfield Community in some capacity. She is interested in participating in a fundraiser for Opera House Players, Enfield High School as a Mentor or to help to promote the ECAC Bandshell. Emily asked Josh to share our Artist and Performer Survey for her to add her contact information for us to follow up in the future.

Special Guest: Chris Gann came to give us a mural update. He shared that he had met with Ronnie Salas and has been spending time in Thompsonville doing sketches. He shared 2 canvas paintings that he had recently completed. Chris has an art exhibit at the Pearl Street library that will run until the end of the month.

Chris shared photos of his recent mural works in Hartford and Danbury and talked about the creative process and including community engagement. He would like our and the community's feedback about buildings from Thompsonville that we are interested in seeing represented in the mural. We talked about incorporating an Amtrak train, the bandshell, 100 High St, The Strand and discussed prominent Enfield residents: Angelo Lamagna and Ernie Mainard.

We talked about involving the community through a survey. Polling participants to share their favorite Historical landmarks or buildings in Thompsonville. Asking what their favorite memory of Thompsonville is, What is the future of Thompsonville? The survey could be a hybrid model. Online and paper copies at locations around Thompsonville such as Caronna's Market, Pearl Street Library, Sarapes, the Polish Deli and other businesses in the area.

The timeline for the mural completion may be Spring of 2024. The next step is to set a date for the next mural meeting, to have a date to aim for.

Chris shared that Enfield Produce will be having a Community Paint Day on October 7th. He will also be open to talking to Public Access.

Chairperson's Remarks: Part 2 of ECAC's Priorities and Goals Planning meeting will be schedule for our October meeting when all commission members are planned to attend. Ellen will also be invited to attend our meeting to support us in the planning and to provide feedback with the summer concert series budget.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$14,374. We have paid for 3 band shell performances, Open Mic refreshments, lights and a wagon.

We will revisit the proposed budget to review what we have spent. We will inquire with the Town Manager's office to see if anyone was taking attendance counts for the concerts so we can pursue sponsorships for next season.

Staff Liaison's Remarks: The Open Mic flyer will be put up as there is space. There is not a lot of wall space for ECAC to hang posters. An A-Frame can be put out at certain times on the lawn to advertise events. Linda has requested that the flyers be designed in a vertical orientation not horizontal. Emily will create a flyer.

Dukes of Hazardville, a local Acoustic Classical Rock band has visited the library and expressed interest in playing the Band Shell.

Town Council Liaison: Not present

Old Business: Enfield Produce and Deli Mural update: They are holding a community paint day on October 7th. Lauren has submitted a mini grant request for \$500 to support community engagement for the paint day as well as wall prep. She currently has 2 different fundraising formats. Rise Up Fund and Sustainable CT. We will offer to date towards the Sustainable CT funding for the match. Jason will call her tomorrow to talk about our donation. We will ask that our ECAC logo is shared in PR for the event. A \$500 donation will make us a Platinum sponsor. Steph motioned to approve the \$500 mini grant, Donna 2nd. All voted in favor.

Steph made a motion to buy an A-frame stand. \$200 towards the sign that can be used to promote our events. Dan 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

Can't Miss Chris butterfly wings. We will postpone our decision on buying a set of wings and to discuss pricing until our planning meeting in October when we can more closely review the budget.

Oli B would like to hold a drum circle in the bandshell. Jason has a box of 10 Djembe's (drums) at the library that was purchased for a previous plan of having a drum circle that was impacted by COVID. Steph made a motion to move forward with planning for the event.

We discussed the bandshell and the request from a community member to reserve the bandshell for an upcoming wedding. Ellen is working on making the bandshell available for reserved use. More information will be shared soon.

Another option for the bandshell would be a pop-up story time with the library as they tour parks around town.

Now that the concert series is over, the ECAC wagon and supplies will be moved back to the Annex for storage.

Sophie is an artist in town who is interested in murals, her contact information will be saved for future opportunities.

ECAC will be creating a database for the bands and artists interested in the 2024 Summer Concert Series. We are looking for a volunteer to create and maintain the database to store the information.

Donna will attend the September Open Mic night. Emily and Joyce will not be able to attend. We discussed extending Open Mic to Oct, Nov and December. We talked about breaking January and February due to the weather. Steph Made a motion to extend the Open Mic Nights, Emily 2nd, all voted in favor. Jason will talk to Kevin.

We have been invited to participate in Open Mic at the Powder Hollow Brewery the first Friday's of the month. Jason will ask the town attorney to be sure we can participate at the brewery.

September 17 is Family Day on the Town Green. Steph can pick up 5 \$20 gift cards to Michaels for prizes. We have enough volunteers for the day.

Emily will drop off the plaque for Elizabeth Szewczyk for her time as Enfield's first Poet Laureate. She will drop it off to her. Emily will turn in the receipt to Linda for reimbursement.

We discussed a hybrid model for our upcoming meetings due to the commission member's summer schedule. We will plan for July and August to be virtual meetings to increase the ability for attendance. We also discussed the option of virtual meetings in January and February due to the winter weather/cold. We will discuss further.

meeting adjourned: 7:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Hamre, Secretary