



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

ARTS COMMISSION AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Hamden Government Center
Third Floor Conference Room
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

September 2, 2026

7:00pm

[Click to View Agenda](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Doc Martin called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

In Person: Doc Martin, Rodney West, Chloe Fang, Donna Elking, Peggy Craft

Online: Ryan Brown, Nikilia Ried, Marita Gargiulo, Charles Kortsep

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. August 12th, 2026

Marita Gargiulo made a motion to approve the minutes from 8.12.26. Rodney West seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all voting members.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There will be a brief summary of the correspondence submitted between the last correspondence update and this one. This includes but is not limited to any correspondence with council members that members wish to submit for the record. It can also include written communication to the council from the administration, community members, etc.

Commission Chair Doc Martin discussed the meeting with the town clerk regarding the Hamden Through Time project.

6. REPORTS

The Commission briefly discussed the Webster and Bankwell accounts:

- The Commission and no one on the Commission has made any expenditures utilizing either accounts

- Charles Kortsep reviewed the last known balance of the Commission's accounts:
 - Gift Fund: \$42,902.80 as of 12.31.2025
 - Saturday Series: \$6,382.27
 - Sunday Series/Peter Harrold: \$68,000-\$69,000
 - Bankwell: unknown

Doc reviewed the donations made from the Summer Concert Series and expenditures for the hospitality lounge:

- July 10th
 - Donations: \$170
 - Expenditures: \$188.63
- July 17th
 - Donations: \$178
 - Expenditures: \$140.99
- July 24th
 - Donations: \$114.75
 - Expenditures: \$99.30
- July 30th
 - Donations: \$200.09
 - Expenditures: \$153.75
-

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(if recommended by the town attorney)

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on the Hamden Through Time project and exhibit.

Doc discussed Hamden Through Time:

- The goal is to tell one community story across three months with residents and partners creating the content.
 - September
 - The Commission is tasked with creating visual presentations of famous people from Hamden.
 - Chloe Fang discussed creating a painting of Jennifer Barnhart who play Zoe on Sesame Street.
 - October
 - How Hamden got its name
 - How Hamden got its Mascot

- Major Weather Events
 - Former Businesses
 - Hamden Plaza
 - Sunken Cars
 - November
 - Talk about culture
 - Identify arts & arts organizations that the commission can bring to the event at the Eli Whitney
 - December
 - Hamden's future
 - Looking for kids to come up with drawings, artwork and models talking about the future
2. Discussion on new projects and fundraisers for the remainder of the year and beginning of next year.

Rodney West presented several ideas for projects:

- Origami Paper Crafts
- Snowman Contest
- Nature Collage & Recycled Art Workshop
- Youth Art Market
- Chalk Fest
- Community Painting Picnic
- Student Gallery & Community Collaborative Mural

The Commission provided feedback and gave input on the presented ideas.

Nikilia Ried discussed her idea for a roller skating event.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Peggy Craft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donna Elking seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

ARTS COMMISSION AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

August 12, 2026

7:00pm

[Click to View Agenda](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Doc Martin called the meeting to order at 7:52PM.

2. ATTENDANCE

In Person: Doc Martin

Online: Charles Kortsep, Donna Elkin, Ryan Brown, Nikila Reid, Quinn Wainwright, Marita Gargiulo & Chloe Fang

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. [July 8th, 2026](#)

Donna Elkin motioned to approve July 8th's meeting minutes. Marita Gargiulo seconded the motion. Motion approved by all voting members.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There will be a brief summary of the correspondence submitted between the last correspondence update and this one. This includes but is not limited to any correspondence with council members that members wish to submit for the record. It can also include written communication to the council from the administration, community members, etc.

No correspondence.

6. REPORTS

Doc reported on expenses and proceeds through donations in the Summer Concert Series recap.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(if recommended by the town attorney)

No executive session needed.

8. OLD BUSINESS

1. Summer Concert Series Wrap up

Doc reviewed the pros and cons of the Summer Concert Series as well as proceeds made through donations.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Plans for upcoming events for the remainder of the year.

The Commission discussed some ideas for future/upcoming events.

Ryan:

- Street Chalk
- Restaurant Week,
- Food Truck Festival

Nikila:

- Skate Event
- music, donations, etc.

Doc:

- Hamden Through Time
 - September 1st - September 19th
 - 240 years of Hamden
 - Town Founders
 - Quinninapiac Native Americans
 - Sleeping Giant Mountain
 - Schools in Hamden
 - Dragon Mascot
 - Recent Tornadoes
 - Sunken Cars
 - Merritt Parkway
- Poster Boards
- Movie
- Famous People in Hamden

10. ADJOURNMENT

Donna Elkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nikilia Reid seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Zoom Recording:

<https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/play/Cnir4XF0NGnTTEofHeHc0sp6LJdBGp75d1HSCJzoxjBz2vS>

Emr5l_vRrEBUvGv0p-gL5EKAwTj64a7us.roG0-
RKuk5xrP4RH?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&continu
eMode=true&oldStyle=true&pwd=DHWSTcXT-
SwJ71RiEQAAIAAAAAUHoc9kW4pXQ9tjKRr2i9Sg7P1IIYDAal-K3qP4jq2__6cN-
VFDYrMiFEVtrgrf7zAwMDAwNA&componentName=rec-
play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fhamden.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FXEl3pGi9t8
Slyjx_uGUlpSBXoEaweDqUJiMO1Msncht1JP7-
laDStQk7_RgXa4U.9T8uSI9KfCICtIWc%3Fpwd%3DDHWSTcXT-
SwJ71RiEQAAIAAAAAUHoc9kW4pXQ9tjKRr2i9Sg7P1IIYDAal-K3qP4jq2__6cN-
VFDYrMiFEVtrgrf7zAwMDAwNA