Received
JUL 21 2026
Derby, CT Town Clerk's Office

Sterling Opera House Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2025

1. Call to Order - The regular meeting of the Sterling Opera House Commission was called to order on **October 6, 2025, at 6:07 PM**.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Dana Florenza, Brian Coppolo, Gino DiGiovanni, Carleigh Paecht, Karleen Guluzzy

A **quorum was present**.

4. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes available for approval.

Motion to table approval of minutes.

- Motion: Brian Coppolo
- Second: Karleen Guluzzy
- Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

5. Public Portion

No members of the public (in person or via Zoom) requested to speak.

The public portion was closed.

6. Committee Updates

- The **feasibility study and market analysis** are currently underway.
- The **survey, documentation, and maps** have been filed with the City and provided to **Steinberg Hart** for use in the final stages of its study.
- An update from Steinberg Hart is anticipated within the next week.
- The goal is to present the findings to the City and Board of Aldermen around Thanksgiving or shortly thereafter.
- No further committee updates were reported.

7. Report on Ansonia Harvest Festival

- The Harvest Festival was well attended, with vendors located throughout multiple streets.
- Attendance appeared to be stronger than in previous years, aided by favorable weather.
- The Commission's tent received steady foot traffic, and names and email addresses were collected.
- Walking tour signage helped generate interest and encouraged ticket sign-ups.
- Overall, the event was considered successful.

8. Discussion: Upcoming Walking Tours (October 11, 2025)

- Tours are scheduled from **2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**, limited to **10 participants per group**, leaving every **20 minutes**.
- Ticket sales are approximately **30%**, with expectations of last-minute purchases dependent on weather.

- Additional social media promotion and website updates are planned.
- Same-day ticket availability may be offered if capacity allows.
- **Twisted Vine** will serve as the meeting and registration location and will open early for the event.
- Tour logistics include:
  - Registration and check-in at Twisted Vine
  - Guided walk along Elizabeth Street
  - Entry and interior tour of the Opera House, led by speakers including Anthony and Dave
  - Return route via the Green
- Scripts for tour guides will be finalized and distributed by mid-week.
- Stickers will be used to identify tour participants.
- Confirmation received that the **mayor's office** will provide access and security for the Opera House.

9. New Business

Raffle Fundraiser

- A Harvest Festival raffle was conducted successfully; the winner will be contacted directly.
- A proposal was introduced to conduct a **Christmas raffle fundraiser**, featuring a **$250 Amazon gift card**.
- Proposed details:
  - Ticket price: $10
  - Maximum of 200 tickets
  - Conducted online via **Zeffy** (Zeffy.com no transaction fees)
  - Tentative run: October 11 – November 10
- **Motion** to proceed with organizing the fundraiser:
  - Motion: Brian Coppolo
  - Second: Dana Florenza
  - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried

Community Outreach

- Information was shared regarding **Steve Cooper**, a promoter with experience organizing successful events, as a potential future contact.
- Suggestion made to consider participation in **Shelton Day** in 2026 due to strong attendance.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at **6:32 PM.**

- Motion: Dana Florenza
- Second: Brian Coppolo
- Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Desroches