



Date and Time: August 4, 2026 at 6:30pm

Location: Cultural Center, 37 Millyard, Gallery Unit, Amesbury, MA 01913

CALL TO ORDER - 6:33 - AJ

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Margaret Leahy (ML), Amy Vander Els (AV), Bailey Campbell (BC), Sally Nutt (SN), Joanne Barnes (JB), Laura Schofield (LS), Bonnie Brady (BB), Ann Johnson (AJ), Bryan Riley (BR), Kristen Costa (KC)

MEETING MINUTES - 6:33

Vote: Approve July 8 minutes; BC motions, AV seconds, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT - 6:33

-Tom Hall - Looking for an alternative spot to City Hall; ML suggests BareWolf, BC will check with Jenn Houle + send Tom a registration form

TREASURER REPORT - 6:39 - JB

- Gifts account: \$17,633 (\$6,185 available, rest is encumbered)
- Grants account: \$3,725; still waiting on 5 recipients to request their funds
- Waiting on invoice from YWCA for Juneteenth
- 30for30 income: \$700 in July
- Open Studios income: \$800 so far

Vote: JB motions to reimburse BC for supplies for the Pride mural event @ \$69.66; BB seconds, unanimous

Vote: JB motions to pay for 2 Chamber mixer tickets @ \$20 total; AJ seconds, unanimous

GRANTS REPORT - 6:50 - AJ

- AJ will send one more reminder for recipients to submit request for funds
- Public Intake survey results:
 - Most interested in Festivals/Community Days, Public Arts, Music; some interest

in Folk Arts/Crafts, History, Theater, Science/Nature, Food/Cooking

- Most people hear about ACC through social media + newsletter
- Time is #1 factor that prevents people from participating; Awareness is #2
- Top 3 desired projects: Arts Education/Programming, Community Gatherings, Placemaking/Public Art; runners-up Celebrating Local History, Celebrating Diversity + Inclusion

-Discussed 2026-7 priorities; Ann will finalize and send to MCC by August 28

-Upcoming dates:

- Applications open Sept. 1–Oct. 15
- Applicants need to apply through MCC grant management system
- Applicant info session Sept. 10, 6pm — we'll host a live viewing in the CC followed by a Q+A (LS will register for the group)
- Denial notifications due by Dec. 31
- Decision report due by Jan. 15, 2027

MARKETING REPORT - 7:12 - BC

-Open Studio registration page is live

-Social storytelling campaign is complete, rolled into 30for30 campaign, has been a success so far; will add the 30for30 logo to every piece of marketing until the end of the year

-Print distribution list — please update as you distribute physical fliers (30for30 + Open Studios)

-Printed business cards for renting the CC; + new rack cards

-Heather Karp @ Cedar Street offered social media support for Open Studios

-AJ - Are we oversaturating our audience with information? It is a challenge at this time of year; all of our events happen in the 4th quarter

-If we want to boost our posts, we should do it for events; \$15 or \$20 should be sufficient

-Want to schedule a content filming day for Open Studios storytelling

Vote: BB motions to set a budget of \$200 to boost posts on social media; ML seconds, unanimous

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 7:35 - BB

-\$1,200 total rentals

-C-10 looking to hold their annual meeting here; Paula Estey interested in holding an exhibit

-Expanded rental policy to add 2-hour rental tier for \$50

-For 2026, we will allow Amesbury nonprofits to use the space Mon., Wed., Thurs. for free

-Upcoming: Community Closet Exchange on 8/8; Group Critique on 9/21, potentially will hold every 3 months; Fall pop-up exhibit, TBD

-AV - Potential to host a Chamber Business + Breakfast event here in 2027, good way to introduce the business community to the space, our sponsorship options

NEW BUSINESS - 7:45 - SN

-BB and SN attended the Cultural District info session hosted by MCC; application is due February 2027, may be too late to start now; we will discuss further in September

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:49 - AJ, ML

Vote: SN motions to accept Salem Trolley price of \$3,750; LS seconds, unanimous

-Update on sponsors - Mel Webster committed to \$2,000; Emily Scott committed to FOTT — many others have been contacted

-22 artists have already registered

-Cultural Center is full, wait list only

-KC will start reaching out to musicians; focus on instrumental/acoustic/ambient

-ML will reach out to Lauren Pettapiece to create an illustrative map that we can reuse each year; will request a quote, see if it fits within existing marketing budget

-ML will apply for signage permit from Inspectional Services

ART @ CITY HALL - NA

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 8:04 - AV

-Madison Barnes reached out about helping to fund the Friend Street Mural

-Hanley Court mural by Emily Jewett is on hold; building owner wanted to be much more involved with the design, would increase the price; Emily proposed moving her focus to the Costello bus station; if the project is changing this drastically, we recommend applying for another grant this year

-BC - Amber Tilson reached out asking for guidance on doing a mural at Our Neighbors Table; BC suggested applying for a grant

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 8:06 - BR

-Open Mics are scheduled at the Whittier Home for the rest of this year; will regroup in 2027

- Whittier Home will not support poetry projects going forward
- Raised \$57 at the Poetry Karaoke at BareWolf

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING - 8:14

AV - Cat Debrocke invited the ACC to purchase a block for their steamroller event on October 3, \$100 or \$250; TBD, will discuss at next meeting

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Clothing Swap - 8/8, 10am-1pm @ Cultural Center
- Monthly virtual ECCF meetup - Aug 12 @ 9am
- Abigail Adams Legacy + Liberty (grant recipient) - Aug 22 @ Rocky Hill Meeting House
- MCC grant applications open Sept. 1
- Next ACC meeting 9/8, 6:30 @ Cultural Center
- Live Well Amesbury 9/12

Adjourn - ML motions, BC seconds, unanimous

Signed: Margaret Leahy 9/8/26