



Date and Time: April 7, 2026 at 6:00pm

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

CALL TO ORDER - 6:03 - AJ

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Ann Johnson (AJ), Margaret (ML), Amy Vander Els (AV), Bonnie Brady (BB), Laura Schofield (LS), Bailey Campbell (BC), Sally Nutt (SN), Kristen Costa (KC), Joanne Barnes (JB), Aimie Westphal (AW, City Liaison)

Members Not Present: Rachel Wallace (RW), Bryan Riley (BR)

Guests: Greg Torrales, Lindsay Haight, Delia Rinaldi

MEETING MINUTES - 6:04 - AJ

Vote: Approve March 3 minutes - SN motion, BB second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/a

TREASURER REPORT - 6:06 - JB

-Gifts account: \$15,723 (Encumbered ~\$2,000 b/c outstanding poet stipends, CC supplies)

-Grants account: \$6,225, paid out \$6,375

PROPOSED FUND-RAISING PLAN PRESENTED BY LINDSAY HAIGHT (LH) - 6:11

-LH presented a rudimentary, high-level plan for annual fundraising so the ACC can support its programming year-round

-Group discussion and questions

GRANTS REPORT - 7:25 - AJ

-AV: Principal of the Shea Elementary School has invited us to speak to teachers about

our grant opportunities on 4/10

MARKETING REPORT - 7:26 - BC

- We need someone to track grant recipients' events so we can include them in our calendar (SN + ML volunteer)
- We have a new Cultural Center page that covers use of the space, guidelines, rental details, etc.
- Our Chamber Merchant ad is due next week - we need to figure out what the content will be
- Poetry Month has kicked off; Bryan is hosting multiple events; there was an article covering the month in the Daily News
- We need more storytelling in our online content — that we have no guaranteed annual budget, that we've been around since 1982, that we support diversity through our grants, etc. — looking for ACC members willing to develop + film social content

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 7:36 - BB

- Rental system is live on our site + set up through City Hall
- Received our first reservation for an event in April
- BB will be hosting 4 makers' classes; first 2 events in our Speakers Series are planned (Markets 101; Applying for Grants)
- First exhibit 6/20–7/3, North of Boston Print Collaborative — ACC is only going to staff 2 weekends, other visits will be by appointment through BB
- AV: We could schedule a student art show leading up to Open Studios, since we are stretched thin during that time of year

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:46 - AJ

- Trolley deposit is paid
- LaMacchia Realty already reached out with a request to sponsor Open Studios this year

ART @ CITY HALL - 7:47 - AJ

- There's a lot of empty wall space at the new City Hall — hallways, offices, etc.
- Huge potential for large rotating shows, once City Hall figures out wall space needs

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:49 - AV

- Met with Emily Jewett about the Hanley Court/82 Main Street mural; she needs to propose her ideas to the board of owners

-Met with Nick Cracknell (OCED Director) to discuss new mural at 20 Friend Street (old CommSat building)

- AV reached out to mural artists for pricing suggestions for that size space; we don't know yet if we will have matching funding from the developer
- Want to roll out a call for art in 2 phases:
 - 1) Request for Qualifications
 - 2) Request for Proposals, provide a stipend for artists' work on their proposals

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 7:54 - AJ

-It's Poetry Month! Theme: Poemapalooza

-Funding for Tapestry of Voices contest awards is unclear; will discuss possibility of ACC funding to May meeting

DISCUSS CORE VALUES FOR THE ACC - move to next meeting

DISCUSS GOALS FOR 2026 - move to next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

N/a

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

N/a

REVIEW UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

-Bryan Riley @ Gloucester Writers' Center, May 4, 6:30-8:30

-Nature In Your Neighborhood, Woodsom Farm, May 26, 8-10am (grant recipient)

-Creative Experiences grant deadline, April 30

Adjourn - 8:04 - BC motions, AV seconds, unanimous

Signed:

Margaret Leahy, 5/5/26