



Date and Time: June 2, 2026 at 6:30pm

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

CALL TO ORDER - 6:32 - AJ

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

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

MEETING MINUTES - 6:33 - AJ

Vote: Approve May 5 minutes - SN motion, BR second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/a

TREASURER REPORT - 6:35 - JB

- Gifts account: ~\$23,000 (~\$6,300 encumbered - MCC Cultural Center grant, poetry program)
- Total of \$600 in CC rentals for May; pending 2 other events
- Grants account: \$3,725
- BB will need to write a grant report after spending the CC grant, no receipts needed

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING - 6:38

Kate Slater, CEO of Newburyport YWCA:

- ACC granted \$500 to support 2026 MLK day event — very successful
- Requesting support for 2026 Juneteenth event — Newburyport and Amesbury are jointly executing; funds would pay for speakers' fees + band; \$500 would be meaningful
- **Vote: Provide \$500 to Newburyport YWCA to support 2026 Juneteenth event - SN motions, AV seconds - Unanimous**

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 6:57 - BR

- All 2026 poetry events on the calendar so far
- Funding the DJ for Poetry Karaoke at BareWolf out of poet laureate stipend

GRANTS REPORT - 7:01 - AJ

- AJ sent email out to recipients who have not submitted requests for funds; 3 more people requested
- AV attended the Nature in Your Neighborhood

MARKETING REPORT - 7:04 - BC

- BC ordered coroplast signs advertising Cultural Center events from Red Mill Graphics — worth considering Red Mill Graphics for all Open Studios signage (significantly cheaper than Northeast Digital Imaging)
 - Updated the website homepage to illustrate our initiatives w/ a graphic wheel
 - Wrote up a social storytelling plan for ACC, dispelling some misinformation, making sure people know who we are/what we do; maps out video narratives for all ACC members to participate in
 - ML - Should we consider paying to boost posts in this campaign?
 - BC - Yes, some of the more impactful event-based posts
 - Need to look into pricing
 - Need to fill up a content library to choose from
- Vote: Reimburse BC for \$27 Posca markers for “faces” CC mural - AV motion, AJ second - Unanimous**

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 7:25 - BB

- Received hanging system for gallery walls
- Discussing spending the \$4,500 MCC grant on:
 - Wall lighting; Electrician has assessed, waiting on a quote; met with the Mayor and Purchasing + Contracts to confirm the work can happen
 - Large LCD monitor with speakers + wheeling cart
 - Supplementing speaker stipends
 - If there is anything left over, we can get a PA system with mics
- Mayor wants to do ribbon cutting for the gallery
- Coming up: Markets 101, Grant Writing workshops; Print Collective exhibit w/ printing activities for kids + adults
- Need to increase promotion of the space
- LS - what is the working capacity of this room? BB - approx. 100

-LS - are the people who use this space allowed to use the dumpster behind Amesbury Industrial? AV - yes, because it's under the City's contract

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:38 - SN

-Still don't have a response from the Rec Center about using the auditorium for Open Studios; will call again

-ML will replicate the OS event plan for 2026, go over with AJ + BC, share at the next meeting

ART @ CITY HALL - 7:40 - AJ

N/a

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:40 - BC

-BC met with Industrial History Center about using their windows for a temporary "faces" mural in the Counting House windows; they were very excited but hesitant about having more than two people in their at a time; progress is halted

- 50+ people participated in the CC mural, great success
- AV has contacted the owner of Greenery Designs' old space to see if we can install a temp. mural on the windows, pending renovations
- BC - would be great to do it during Amesbury Pride or a Summer Music Series night

-AV - Chris Horan, developer of old CommSat building, will donate \$1,500 toward future mural

- Process would start in spring 2027; first step is a call for qualifications from interested artists
- Need to think about what we want depicted/theme; Chris Horan does want a say in the final concept

FUNDRAISING PLAN UPDATE - 7:52 - AJ

-All members need to choose a pillar of Lindsay Haight's 2-year revenue strategy to support

NEW BUSINESS

N/a

REVIEW UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

-Chamber Block Party, June 26, 5:30-8pm

-Amesbury Pride, June 28, 1-3pm

- Kids' Day in the Amphitheater, June 30
- July 7 Flatbread Fundraiser, 5-8pm
- Next ACC Meeting, July 8, 6:30 (day change!)
- Next Cultural Center meeting, May 22
- June 10, 4pm, ribbon cutting ceremony for MEVA bus stop art project (Jenn Houle, artist)

Adjourn - 8:22 - BC motions, BB seconds - unanimous

Signed Margaret Leahy July 8, 2026