

RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 8:41 am, Aug 06, 2026



Date and Time: July 8, 2026 at 6:30pm

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

CALL TO ORDER - 6:34 - SN

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

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

Not present: Ann Johnson (AJ), Bryan Riley (BR)

MEETING MINUTES - 6:35 - SN

Vote: Approve June 2 minutes - BB motion, JB second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT - 6:36

Nanette Poirier - past participant in Open Studios

Laura Meyer - Merrimack resident, freelance graphic designer, wanted to learn more about ACC

TREASURER REPORT - 6:39 - JB

-Gifts account: \$20,081 (\$18,609 available)

-Grants account: \$3,725; still waiting on 5 recipients to request their funds

~\$1,200 in CC revenue so far; pending 2 other events

GRANTS REPORT - 6:41 - SN/BC

-Still waiting on 5 recipients to submit request for their funds, AJ has been sending out reminders

-Coming up: Abigail Adams Legacy + Liberty 8/22 at Rocky Hill Meeting House;
Exploring outdoor photography class series through Council on Aging

MARKETING REPORT - 6:44 - BC

- KC will be supporting Bailey on comms (primary focus on Cultural Center)
- Thank you everyone who came to filming content days; seeing a lot of engagement and growth on social media, people getting excited about our programming
- Press release about the Cultural Center opening went out
- Getting ready to launch 30 for 30 fundraising campaign on July 15
 - Seeking \$30 donations from individuals to support all our programs; end date = end of calendar year
 - SN - is it tax deductible? Need to find out from City; could make it more attractive to donors
 - Need to update language on Unipay page (to distinguish from Open Studios fees)
 - BC has created a marketing/branding package for promotion; need help getting flyers + digital assets out around town + social media
 - ML to send out survey from Open Studios account soliciting stories from the last 30 years

Vote: BC seeking a \$500 budget to redo our rack cards + rental “business cards” for the Cultural Center - BB motions, SN seconds, unanimous

- BB requests clarification when we vote on spending; need to distinguish between specific Cultural Center expenses vs. general ACC expenses

- Saw huge success with Pride Day window mural; have had requests to do more of those installations from other orgs/businesses
- BC will make 2026 Public Input survey for grant funding cycle, send out in next newsletter

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 7:01 - BB

- Spent funds on electrical work (track lighting), LCD monitor + rolling cart - \$264 of ECCF grant remaining; BB to submit grant report to ECCF
- Mayor attended ribbon cutting
- Printmakers' show was successful; artists' demos were great for engaging with visitors
- Markets 101 event had great attendance, positive feedback
- Grants Workshop had fewer attendees, but more targeted; active Q+A with audience; attended by Greg Torrales from MCC, suggested we do another workshop specifically on the LCC grants
 - LS - Suggest we invite other area LCC members to sit on the panel
- Seeking any other ideas for education series — survey results requested Social Media Marketing, Photographing Your Artwork, Headshots + Resumes for Performing Artists,

Tips From Gallery Owners

-Workshop leaders (non-ACC members) receive \$100 stipend

-Future projects:

- Community Clothing Swap in partnership with Khaki's Vintage Closet, August 8, 10am-1pm; will donate anything not claimed; upcycling stations for embroidery, mending, block printing
- Quarterly drop-in critiques facilitated by studio "leaders" from around Amesbury (starting in 2027)

-Photography group from Nbpt Art Assn. may be interested in a show in the fall + 6-part lecture series

-Have a request from Amesbury Outdoors (Lake Gardner + Trails committee) to hold their monthly meetings — question of whether the nature of their work qualifies as "culture"

-Considering a "subscription" model or a smaller one-time fee for 2-hour CC rentals; need to discuss further

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:43 - ML

-AV reached out to Somerville to discuss how they organize their Open Studios

-Joseph's Transportation quoted us a trolley rental price of \$3,200; AJ reached out to Salem Trolley to see if they would price match, they will come down to \$3,750

-BC got a quote from Red Mill Graphics on signage, less expensive than Northeast Digital; also got a quote on a booklet instead of a fold-out brochure

- BC will get a new quote for 1,500 total brochures

Vote: BC seeking a marketing budget of \$4,000 - ML motions; JB seconds, unanimous

-BC created Save the Date postcards — will send to print ASAP

-Setting the registration deadline earlier to Sept. 15 to have the printed brochure at the mixer; tentative mixer date Oct 28/29

-Seeking 8 total ambient/instrumental musicians/groups for ACC guest artist spaces; KC to reach out to her contacts

Vote: Approve \$2,000 budget for ACC guest location performers - AV motions, LS seconds

-Need confirmation from Rec Department that we can use 62 Friend Street auditorium

- Kathy Crowley confirms; we do not need a permit
- City is cracking down on insurance; artists may need to sign an insurance waiver; SN to gather more details from City

-Discussed sponsor plan; ML to share contact sheet with ACC members, everyone can

“claim” businesses to contact

ART @ CITY HALL - 8:10 - SN

N/a

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 8:11 - AV

-Emily Jewett submitted mural concepts to 87 Main Street property, building tenants not in favor of ideas; project on hold

-BC - Pride Window mural was a massive success, other orgs have requested a similar installation

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 8:15 - SN

-BR's daughter passed away; SN provides funeral details

-July 15 event (Poetry Karaoke) may be canceled

FUNDRAISING PLAN UPDATE - 8:18 - SN

-Flatbread fundraiser held on 7/7, TBD on amount raised, but made \$150 in 50/50 raffle; will set aside for Open Studios trolley tips

NEW BUSINESS

N/a

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING - 8:19 - SN

-ML - Artsville sheds are coming back to Amesbury; Mayor would like the ACC to own the program again (TBD until late 2027)

-SN - MCC is holding a webinar about Cultural Districts 7/14; Application open July 7-Feb 8, 2027; Jennifer Arndt (Merrimack Valley Planning Commission) has offered to help us gather input/materials and apply; BB has requested a meeting with the Mayor to discuss

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

-Next Amesbury Chamber Mixer on 7/13; would be beneficial to have at least one ACC member attend each month (ticketed)

-MCC Cultural Districts webinar - 7/14

-Next ACC meeting 8/4, 6:30 @ Cultural Center

-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
- Live Well Amesbury 9/12

Adjourn - 8:31 - BC motions, BB seconds - unanimous

Approved 8/4

Signed: Margaret Leahy, Secretary