RECEIVED
By City Clerk at 11:43 am, Oct 07, 2026

AMESBURY culturalcouncil theartofcommunity

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

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

CALL TO ORDER - 6:31 - SN

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)

Not present: Kristen Costa (KC)

MEETING MINUTES - 6:32 - SN

Vote: Approve August 4 minutes; BB motions, AJ second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT - 6:33

Kevin Latady

Emily Jewett

TREASURER REPORT - 6:35 - JB

-Gifts account: $18,241 (~$12,000 encumbered); doesn't include Open Studios revenue yet ($2,960)

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

-30for30 — $860 total; haven't even been promoting it since Open Studios registration kicked off

-AJ + SN need to finalize LCC Financial Report

GRANTS REPORT - 6:44 - AJ

-AJ has emailed outstanding recipients again; gave a deadline of Oct. 1

-2027 cycle is open — deadline Oct. 15

-Virtual MCC Grants Info Session on Thurs. 9/10; will project for the public at the Cultural Center

MARKETING REPORT - 6:45 - BC

-Focusing on Open Studios registration

-Posted 2027 grants priorities on the website

-Did a paid post for the grant info session on Facebook; $30 for a month — will track and see if it was worth the spend

-Will do the same for Open Studios, 1 month out

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 6:49 - BB

-$1,500 revenue; either earmarked or spent; $575 balance, haven't determined purpose yet

-Have received several requests for rentals, some not quite in the category of "culture"; Mayor will determine fitness

-BB applied for a grant from Inst. for Savings for $2,500 to install 3 new lights for gallery wall + brick wall

-AV - clothing swap went smoothly; would do twice a year, definitely need more volunteers; could tap into getting donations, didn't push it at all, but people are willing to donate

-Grant info session 9/10, 6-8pm; Community Art Critique 9/21; October 23-29 community art exhibit — open call, participants need to sign up for a gallery sitting slot on weekends

-2 more gallery rentals coming up following Open Studios

-BB has looked into getting one-day insurance to serve alcohol on the premises

ART @ CITY HALL - 7:06 - AJ

-BB re: the page on our website, are we keeping it live? Rename it to Community Exhibitions?

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:08 - AV

-Emily Jewett (EJ) applied for a grant for 2 murals last year; we passed on awarding an MCC grant, but offered to fund it from our own account; project has stalled

- EJ determined painting directly on the substrate would fade; potentially proposing a community mosaic project, like the Wave Mural
- The project changed so much from the original proposal, we declined to fund it in this cycle; AV recommended EJ submit a new proposal
- AV suggests EJ could apply for the Friend Street mural project

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 7:20 - BR

-Open mic at the Whittier Home 9/9

-Poetry readings: September - Lee Eric Freedman; October - Bob Whelan; November - Jamie Millen

-Flatbread Fundraiser 11/10

-Have decided not to pay the headliners; was Lisa Usani's policy, but not going forward

CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION - 7:26 - SN

-SN, BB, and Jennifer Arndt from Merrimack Valley Planning Commission met with Mayor, applications are open, close February 2027; if we miss this cycle, we would not know if we received the designation until Sept. 2028

-Used to be that it all had to be walking distance; now just "navigable" — opens up destinations you need to drive to

-Once we submit the application, we get to decide our part in the management of the Cultural District

-City would be the applicant, ACC would be the application partner

-There needs to be a paid district manager; we could provide the stipend

-Need to establish metrics of what the District would accomplish

-$15,000 a year depending on the state's allocation to the program

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - 7:42 - SN

-Live Well Amesbury 9/12, 10am-2pm

-Next ACC meeting 10/6, 6:30-8:30

-Indigenous People's Day 10/10, 10am-5pm

-She Is the Storm Opening Reception 11/6, 4-7pm

NEW BUSINESS - 7:45 - BB

-Amesbury Outdoors did a campaign to get t-shirt designs, could ACC use our reach to help advertise?

- Recently rebranded from Lake Gardner Assn., gotten a lot more interest
- T-shirt campaign did not generate a lot of interest
- Looking for artists to submit proposals — BB suggests a specific theme, a timeline, and a format

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:55 - ML

-~70 artists registered; 12 sponsors

-We have hired Lauren Pettapiece to create the brochure map illustration, $200 quote

-Need to tape out floors @ City Hall + Cultural Center sooner rather than later

-Confirm mixer date - Thursday Oct 29 @ Cultural Center, 6-8pm

-Assign volunteer roles

- Trolley liaison - Sally Nutt
- City Hall point person - Sally Nutt
- Cultural Center point person - Laura Schofield
- Raffle - Bonnie Brady

-BB will reach out to sponsors/artists separately (like last year) for raffle items; could use an assistant to organize the raffle ahead of time

-Stops that have sponsors:

- Artists' Muse (Water Street Realty - need 1-3 more)
- Market Square (Bakehouse - need 1-3 more)
- Oakland Street (Spoke - need 1-3 more)
- Trades Mill (BLB Design/Build - need 1-3 more)
- Lower Main Street (Ovedia - need 1-3 more)
- Cedar Street - Barbara Lorenc
- Friend Street - The Barnes

-Stops that have no sponsors yet:

- Upper Main Street
- 77 Elm Street
- Cultural Center
- Pond Street

-Sponsors that need a follow-up - Jen Silver, Alice Saunders, Sam/Sean Toomey, Michelle Riaz, Colleen Callahan, LaMacchia, Charlene Dolan

-Nothing from Oakland Street - the Center, BareWolf, Farm+Sea - have been contacted 3 times

-Nothing from Sincere - have been contacted twice

-Balloon Amy (For the Party Co.) will provide discounted balloons for her sponsorship again

-Choose brochure cover image — Margaret Leahy, Floroculus

-Vote: Hire Evelyn Kovach for $125 to distribute flyers; AJ motions, BC seconds, unanimous

<u>MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING - N/A</u>

Adjourn - AJ motions, AV seconds, unanimous

Approved 10/6/26

Signed: Margaret Leahy