

Amesbury Cultural Council - Poet Laureate Support Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: April 13, 2026 at 6:30pm

Location: Cedar Street Studios (1st floor meeting space) 14 Cedar St. Amesbury, MA 01913

Attendance:

In person: Elizabeth Wolf, Matthew Cockreham, Bryan Riley, Clare Dombrowski,
Lisa Usani Phillips
On Zoom: no attendees

Call to Order: Lisa Usani Phillips 6:36pm

Agenda:

1. Appoint someone to take notes
 - Matthew Cockreham volunteered.
2. Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
 - Approved by vote (4 yea, 1 abstain) by members in attendance.
3. Current financial status update
 - No financial update from Amesbury Cultural Council.
 - Bryan Riley was unable to attend the last ACC meeting.
 - Lisa Usani Phillips received from the ACC treasurer a list of the featured readers from past Amesbury Poetry Night events who have not yet submitted invoices.
 - Lisa had already sent reminders to the featured readers to send in outstanding invoices.
 - Lisa will send follow-up reminders.
 - Bryan confirmed receipt of the Poet Laureate stipend.
4. Recent and planned Poet Laureate activities update
 - Poetry in the Pines has become Poem-A-Palooza
 - Anne Ferguson is opening the Whittier Home specifically for this event.
 - Saturday, April 25 4-7pm
 - Stop & Shop may be able to donate snack trays.
 - Bryan will inquire.
 - Event is being advertised via ACC website, Facebook post, and flyers.
 - Poet Laureate Support Committee confirmed that all promotional materials show the correct event time.
 - Karaoke Night Fundraiser
 - Event will take place at BareWolf Brewing.
 - Bryan will reach out to BareWolf Brewing to secure an event date.
 - Targeting July.
 - Bryan will look on Facebook for a DJ willing to donate time.
 - Flatbread Fundraiser
 - Bryan is looking into an event date for 2027.
 - Evening with the Poets
 - PLSC discussed using Amesbury Cultural Center as a venue.
 - Amesbury Community Television will record.
 - Date has not yet been determined.

- PLSC considered scheduling the event in August as a possible lead-in to the open mic series planned to start in September.
- PLSC brainstormed poetry events that could take place during the next few months.

5. Update on poetry events and StoryWalk at Amesbury Public Library

- Clare Dombrowski gave an update to the PLSC.
 - StoryWalk was installed along the Riverwalk trail.
 - A second StoryWalk has been installed outside the library.
 - The StoryWalk at the library will stay up until end of April and possibly longer, depending on the weather.
 - "Poem in your pocket" bulletin board was set up inside the library.
- Clare inquired about reimbursement for the library poetry events.
 - Clare requested \$120.
 - Bryan will ask ACC.

6. Review ACC Amesbury Poetry Month <https://www.amesburyculturalcouncil.org/poetrymonth>

- PLSC addressed the question of who owns and updates the ACC poetry month web page.
 - ACC communications provides their contact information at the bottom of the web page.
- Information related to Creative Haverhill River Bards anthology celebration is incorrect on web page.
 - Elizabeth Wolf will send correction to ACC communications.
- Gathering of Verses Contest
 - Entry form mentions that the contest is cosponsored by the Amesbury Cultural Council and the Poet Laureate Support Committee.
 - PLSC confirmed that it is not a cosponsor of this year's event, nor is the ACC.
 - PLSC determined that the entry form was distributed with outdated information.
 - Bryan will notify the event coordinators to let them know that their entry form needs to be updated.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Matters not reasonably anticipated in advance of the meeting

- None

Adjourn: 7:29pm