

RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 8:15 am, Jun 03, 2026



Date and Time: May 5, 2026 at 6:30pm

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

CALL TO ORDER - 6:33 - AJ

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

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

Members Not Present: Laura Schofield (LS), Bonnie Brady (BB)

MEETING MINUTES - 6:34 - AJ

Vote: Approve April 7 minutes - BC motion, BR second, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/a

TREASURER REPORT - 6:34 - JB

- Gifts account: \$18,553 (~2,700 encumbered - 2025 poetry stipends, poetry program, CC supplies, speaker fees, trolley deposit, Lindsay Haight fee)
- Grants account: \$6,225, paid out \$6,375
- We now have a QR code and a direct link to our Unipay page; Open Studios payment options have been "hidden" for now
- We are expecting a \$4,500 grant from the MCC for the Cultural Center; we will not have to get it approved by City Council

GRANTS REPORT - 6:44 - AJ

- Will send a letter to the remaining recipients who haven't requested their grants yet
- AV and ML visited the Shea Elementary School and presented on grant opportunities - well received, positive response from teachers; AV will compile a list of art teachers' emails to further promote opportunities throughout the year

-ML submitted

MARKETING REPORT - 6:50 - BC

-We have been looking into event-agnostic signage (“Event Today” “ACC Event Here” etc.)

-Looking into refreshing our mission/overall messaging ahead of Open Studios advertising (i.e. 30 for 30 fundraising campaign) — need to firm up our “story” before jumping into asking for money

-BC has a plan to produce a larger campaign for social media

CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 6:59 - AV

-Received the \$4,500 grant from the MCC

-Have a few programs lined up:

- Markets 101, May 28
 - Speakers: AV, Rachel Wilcox, Todd Surette; Moderator: BC
- Grants 101, June 24
- North of Boston Printmaking Collaborative show, June 20-28, weekend hours 12-4pm + by appointment

-BC: Need to make sure the CC events feel welcoming to all, not just strictly “artists” — introduce the CC as a place for creative community

-JB: Children’s movement class took place; six more classes planned; BB is running several workshop events; with other rentals coming in, we will have made around \$1,000 in the first two months

OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:07 - SN

-Reached out to the Rec Headquarters and Costello Center; the Costello will not be available for guest artists this year

-It’s likely that the CC will be ready to host artists instead

-AJ: If we can’t have the Rec Headquarters auditorium, we may need to find an alternative space or just have one

ART @ CITY HALL - 7:13 - AJ

-Finally took down the Mayor Costello exhibit, left the hanging system

-Talked to the Mayor about doing a kids’ art exhibit; need to talk to Kathy Crowley

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:17 - AV

-Meeting with Chris Horan (developer of old CommSat building condos) to see if he will help fund the proposed mural, and if he would have a say in the subject matter; no idea

of timeline yet

-Reached out to Emily Jewett for Hanley Court mural update; may get us a sketch soon
-BC: Would like to pursue the community mural plan during Summer Series nights (drawing on inside of windows of Counting House) - need to seek permission from Jay Gould

POET LAUREATE REPORT - 7:23 - BR

-Found a DJ for a karaoke fundraiser - July 15, 7-10pm @ BareWolf, to raise money for Poet Laureate program

- DJ offered a discount for charitable event - BR requests \$250 to defray the cost (already in Poet Laureate program budget)

-Aug 12, 6-8pm @ Cultural Center, town hall-style event with past Poet Laureates

-Already reached out to Flatbread re: fundraiser for April 2027

VOTE TO ADOPT CORE VALUES - 7:35 - SN

Vote to adopt ACC core values of Community, Creativity, Diversity - BC motions, BR seconds - unanimous

DISCUSS GOALS FOR 2026 - 7:36 - AJ

-Lindsay's plan includes the annual goals (next item)

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON LINDAY HAIGHT'S PROPOSED FUNDRAISING PLAN - 7:37 - SN, AJ

-Review and discussion of proposed pillars and goals

Approve and adopt ACC 2-Year Revenue Strategy - ML motions, SN seconds - unanimous

Add \$200 to Lindsay's original \$200 fee - SN motions, AV seconds - unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

N/a

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

N/a

REVIEW UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

-Next Cultural Center meeting, May 22

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

- Next ACC meeting, June 6, 6:30-8pm
- June 10, 4pm, ribbon cutting ceremony for MEVA bus stop art project (Jenn Houle, artist)
- 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

Adjourn - 8:14 - BC motions, AJ seconds - unanimous

Signed: Margaret Leahy 6/2/26