

**RECEIVED**

*By City Clerk at 12:43 pm, Mar 04, 2026*



**Date and Time:** February 10, 2026 at 6:30pm

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

**CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 - AJ**

**ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Ann Johnson (AJ), Margaret (ML), Rachel Wallace (RW), Amy Vander Els (AV), Bryan Riley (BR), Bonnie Brady (BB), Laura Schofield (LS), Sally Nutt (SN), Kristen Costa (KC)

Members Not Present: Bailey Campbell (BC), Joanne Barnes (JB)

Guests: Lisa Usani Phillips (LP)

**MEETING MINUTES - 6:32 - AJ**

**Vote: Approve January 6 minutes - BB motion, BR second, unanimous**

**TREASURER REPORT - 6:33 - AJ**

-Gifts account: \$20,566 (-\$2,400 encumbered - Poet Laureate stipend, CC supplies, MLK Day grant, Lindsay Haight fee) - \$18,156.66 current total

-Grants account: \$7,600 = have paid out \$5,000 so far

**Vote: Spend \$200 for annual Chamber dues - BB motions, LS seconds, unanimous**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/a

**GRANTS REPORT - 6:37 - AJ**

-Need to pick a date for the grant reception

- March 24th at Cultural Center, 5-7pm
- SN: Should we invite the Mayor + City Council members?
- AJ: Should we make it an artist mixer as well? Will talk to Bailey about marketing

### **MARKETING REPORT - 6:42 - RW**

- Bailey has updated the ACC's mailing address to 1 Market Street (City Hall), updated the Public Art page
- We should craft a statement about not accepting AI-generated art for ACC exhibitions

### **CULTURAL CENTER UPDATE - 6:47 - BB**

- We're trying to make this be the home of the ACC, focus for cultural activities - Mayor supports that
- April 1st - opening date of CC
- We would have first priority for reserving the space; we have scheduling power; library would use archival space; open it up to other cultural entities (city and public)
- Have defined the goals of the center, types of activities welcome
- City Hall has offered to handle scheduling the space (Victoria Feger)
  - AV - we might just block out Tuesday evenings so it's always available to the ACC + subcommittees
- City Hall will also have scheduling power
- Still working on cleaning for the space - trying to get us on the existing City Hall cleaning contract - would charge renters a cleaning fee so we always have a pool of funds to work with
- Can serve liquor, just need a license
- Can have music (just acoustic - trying to get clarification on what that means)
- No building of even a temporary stage - puts the space in a new category
- The Mayor can bypass any of the rules at her discretion
- LS - we're reaching out to other spaces who "rent" their space to learn how they do it
- AV - need to figure out what kind of hanging system we'd use in the CC
- LS has officially joined the CC subcommittee

**Vote: Move the voting on approval of the CC proposal to next meeting - SN motions, AJ seconds, unanimous**

### **OPEN STUDIOS 2026 - 7:04 - AJ**

- Already put in a request for the trolley
- Met with Lindsay Haight (former director of Our Neighbors' Table) to talk about fundraising strategies - would like to provide us with a 2-year framework
  - Would like to meet individually with members of the Open Studios subcommittee to look at our spreadsheets etc., then will present her ideas at an ACC meeting
- MCC Festivals Grant is opening on March 3rd - maybe go for \$2,500 instead of \$5,000

### **ART @ CITY HALL - 7:10 - AJ**

-Need to take down Costello exhibit

-Still need to decide what shape it will take going forward

### **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS - 7:11 - AV**

-Still waiting to talk with Emily Jewett, muralist, about her project on Hanley Ct.

### **POET LAUREATE REPORT - 7:11 - BR**

-Found Stuart Atkins, centenarian, to present him with an honorary Poet Laureate certificate

-Had an interview on ACTV with Meryl Goldsmith

-Will be featured at the Gloucester Writers' Center May 1st

-Big ticket items in the works:

- Poetry in the Pines
- Fundraiser at BareWolf
- Workshop about poetry + music

-Whittier Home is no longer involved in Poet Laureate program except to host events when we ask - have been rewriting the guidelines to remove all mentions of the Whittier Home

-LP: There were some discrepancies re: poets' stipends from last year, need to resolve with Betsy Doucette at City Hall

### **NEW BUSINESS - 7:20**

#### **Juneteenth Celebration update**

-Woon-Chul Fisher has handed over the organizing duties to Kate Slater and Clare Killian, Racial and Social Justice Committee

### **DISCUSS CORE VALUES FOR THE ACC - 7:23 - SN**

Group brainstorm: What are our core values?

### **DISCUSS GOALS FOR 2026 - move to next meeting**

### **MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING - 7:55**

AV - Chamber is offering wayfinding signage to local businesses + nonprofits - we

should request one for the CC

**REVIEW UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

Feb 15, Poet Laureate Inauguration

Feb 17, 6:30, next CC subcommittee meeting

March 3, 6:30pm, next ACC meeting

March 24, 5-7pm, grant reception and artist mixer

**Adjourn - 7:58 - SN motions, BB seconds, unanimous**

Signed: Margaret Leahy, 3/3/26