

2025-087



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Amesbury

Mayor Kassandra Gove

Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

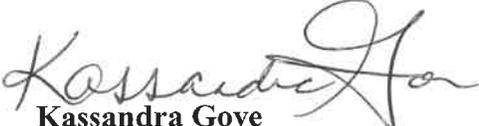
(978) 388-8121
Fax: (978) 388-6727
govek@amesburyma.gov

Certificate of Appointment

August 11, 2025

I appoint Cynthia Costello to the position of member of the Amesbury Council on Aging Board of Directors for a term to expire February 29, 2028, and I certify that said person is qualified to perform the duties of the said office, and I make this appointment solely in the interest of the City of Amesbury.

This appointment shall not become effective until twenty-one days following filing with the city clerk, in accordance with the Amesbury Home Rule Charter.


Kassandra Gove
Mayor

City of
Amesbury
Massachusetts



City Hall • 62 Friend Street • Amesbury, MA 01913 • (978) 388-8121 • Fax (978) 388-6727

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY BOARD,
COMMITTEE, OR COMMISSION

The city appreciates your interest in serving on one of its Boards, Committees, or Commissions. Please complete this form and return it to the **Mayor's Office** in City Hall.

Name: Cynthia C. Costello
Home address: 182 Whitehall Rd. Amesbury MA 01913
Mailing address (if different): _____
Phone number: 978-618-5248 (cell) 978-388-2552
Email address: Cynthia.costello7@gmail.com

Please indicate which Board, Committee, or Commission you are applying to be appointed to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Assessors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission PLANNING COMMISSION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakes & Waterways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Registrars | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor Licensing Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable Advisory Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan Implementation & Oversight Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Advisory Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Preservation Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Board |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees for War Memorials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design Review Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc Committee (specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Committee | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Viewers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Trust Commission | |

There is a brochure with the files - see Rosen: —

1. Please explain why you would like to serve on a particular Board, Committee, or Commission. If necessary, attach additional sheets.

See Attached

* Ruth & I established the first "Soup Center" & meals program with acquiring space in St James Episcopal Church & Hot Meals from Arts Area De Paul. It evolved & grew exponentially to former Academy School & then in opening current site at 68 Elm St. We have been committed to improving the lives of our seniors & their families from Day 1 with 1st Director - Tom Coffin - see brochure on the way - to continue both me & Ruth served on both & in major ways & would like to

2. Please briefly describe your education, relevant work, life experience, or other activity which in your opinion would be beneficial in carrying out the responsibilities of this office. If necessary, attach additional sheets/your resume.

ST. MARY'S High School Grades 1-12 class of '55
Northwestern University 1 + half years - Transfer
Salem State College double major Ed. & Literature
Class of 1961

Served on many boards including Pettengill House
Pres. J. G. Whitten Home 7 years, PPA President
Council of Churches - Council on Aging & more

3. Please list any city offices you have held in Amesbury or elsewhere. Please include your title of office, date of appointment or election, and when your term expired.

Precinct Rep to Town Meeting Precinct 4
Amesbury Cultural Council (by Charter Change)

ESTABLISHED Maudsley State Park & operated the
Maudsley Arts Center Volunteer - 32 years

4. Public service on a Board, Committee, or Commission can be demanding. Please indicate the realistic time commitment you are willing and able to make.

- 1 hour per week
- 2-4 hours per week
- 4-6 hours per week
- other _____

5. How did you hear about the vacancy on this City Board, Committee, or Commission?

- Council, Board, Committee, or Commission meeting
- newspaper
- city website
- social media
- word of mouth

other: *when my husband, Nicholas Council passed on 3/17
* and this created a vacancy.*

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE: I hereby submit this as my application for the position I have indicated on the front of this form. I understand that my completion of this form in no way assures appointment. All Board, Committee, and Commission vacancies will be filled by citizens deemed most qualified to serve in a particular capacity. I also understand that in the event that I am appointed to a position, my activities will be governed by the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law (M.G.L. c 268A), the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (M.G.L.c.39), the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66), the Massachusetts Campaign Finance Law (M.G.L. c 55), the Amesbury City Charter and ordinances, and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws or regulations.

Signature: *Cynthia C. Coates* Date: *July 2, 2025*

May 19, 2017 History COA

For 350th by Cynthia Costello

History of the establishment of the first Hot Meals, Senior Center in the Merrimack Valley in the early 1970s: A vision realized !

Nicholas J. Costello, a Selectman of the Town of Amesbury at that time, recalled how a relative, his wife, Cynthia's Uncle Gene Giordani of Lynn, made one of his frequent visits to their home at 182 Whitehall Road with some exciting news. He said that any senior citizen in Lynn could go to this new senior center and get a hot meal for 50 cents.

That sounded pretty amazing. Inspired with the idea that this could draw seniors out of their homes to enjoy some sociability as well as a nutritious meal so cheaply, Costello went to his fellow selectmen Henry Fournier and Robert Gonthier Jr., and asked them what they thought about doing a similar project here in town. They said they liked the idea and would go along with submitting a request for \$2,000 in starter monies from Town Meeting. Obstacles: they needed a physical site for people to come to prepared meals delivered there.

The Costellos took then rector of St. James Episcopal Church, the late Rev. Gerald Van Flee, to lunch and discussed the possibility of hosting a center for elderly of the town. He took to it right away and so we had a place now we needed 50 cent hot lunches.

Nick approached Dr. Ron Paul, then Amesbury Superintendent of Schools, to see if it would be possible for the school lunch staff to prepare hot meals for seniors for 50 cents. Dr. Paul agreed to "give it a try."

With all in place the Board of Selectman submitted an article on the Town Meeting Warrant requesting \$2,000 from the town and permission to begin the endeavor at St. James hall on Main Street. The article was overwhelmingly approved and the seed money established the first such center and hot lunch program for Amesbury Seniors and the appointment of Thomas Coffin as the first director.

The mission of the COA was to give our elderly an opportunity to get out and socialize and have a healthy hot lunch for just 50cents. Seems everyone liked the idea, especially our seniors.

From that humble beginning a volunteer nurse, Jean Belleau, RN did free blood pressure checks and husband Edward O Belleau helped with meal service and refreshments.

Then classes began: knitting, painting, nutrition, and fun activities like Bingo, line dancing with Jo Bridges, and a monthly Birthday party were added. In a year it had blossomed into a vibrant and well-attended place to meet, socialize, and check health stats. Volunteers then provided transportation for medical appointments and shopping. Until this idea flowered, most elderly were literally stuck at home with no reason to get dressed up and moving.

More and more of our elderly were drawn to this new idea and the space was soon outgrown. Back to the Town Meeting requesting a space and establishing a COA Board, Council on Aging Board to work under the auspices of a Director with annual budget. Town Meeting would overwhelmingly voted the establishment of a COA with an annual budget. The first town space was in the former Ordway School building on School Street next to the Fire Station.

As the years went on other towns followed suit and a Merrimack Valley Nutrition Project was eventually established, responsible for many activities and programs especially the Meals on Wheels hot lunch program that delivers meals to valley senior centers and from there locally to homebound seniors and those recuperating at home, especially after medical procedures.

As the Amesbury program continued to grow it eventually had to find a bigger space and establish the Amesbury Council on Aging to oversee all aspects of seniors needs.

(I believe the late Richard Bowley was the second Director after Thomas Coffin. Claire Danna, Pam Brown, Annmary Connor and current Director, Doreen Brothers.

After two decades that space was outgrown as more and more seniors attended daily. Thinking ahead folks realized this space was bursting at the seams and limited in what could be offered in growing tech fields, computers, exercise room, free tax prep, and more health related areas.

In 1997, Amesbury had elected former Senator Nicholas J. Costello as their First Mayor. Once again, a top priority was our elders and providing a spacious new home with large dining and meeting area, a professional kitchen, and many areas for individual programs including the Veterans' Office space.

Mayor Costello sat down with Joe Constanza, the Director of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transportation Authority, who just happened to be looking for a spot to house a Transportation Center. They were looking at Lawrence at the time, but Costello presented Constanza with the idea that a site in Amesbury could indeed serve two purposes - a Civic Center and a Transportation Center.

Constanza agreed to have it built in Amesbury located off Elm Street on a parcel owned by Nichols Brothers. The land was acquired and construction began soon after under our next Mayor David Hildt, who agreed to pay the MVRTA \$1 a year to lease the building, which houses the Transportation Center for buses, Senior Center, and offices for Veterans, Youth Services and more.

Annmary Connor was the first COA Director for the new Senior Center at 68 Elm St. She was succeeded by current Director, Doreen Brothers. Connor, initiated chose to seek national accreditation from the National Institute of Senior Centers, left the project to next Director, Brothers and her staff. Brothers, They and many volunteers under the lead of volunteer, Mary Schaefer, worked diligently over the past three years seeking accreditation from the NHSC.

This past December that accreditation was received making it "only one or two percent of senior centers in the country to be nationally accredited," said Brothers. "We are a center of excellence."

Update July 2025

Doreen Brothers Arnfield succeeded Annmary Connor as Director & has served until now July 1,2025 when she retired!

The current Council on Aging Chairman is Albert Levine! The new Director will be named soon !

Welcome to our 2025 season...

How it all started...

Maudslay Arts Center is a popular cultural and entertainment destination that has served thousands of patrons. MAC is best known for its outstanding summer concert series offering something for every musical taste from classical to jazz, from opera to country to the Great American Songbook. From mid-May through mid-October, it has also been a popular setting for special events such as weddings, memorial services, corporate functions, educational activities, reunions, and more. The patio and concert barn lend just the right atmosphere for your significant event. To schedule a visit, please contact Nick Costello at 978-857-0677.

maudslayartscenter.org

Saturday, gates opening at 6 p.m. Patio seating at tables with chairs is \$35. Lawn seating, bring your own chairs or blankets, is \$30. Sunday, gates opening at 1 p.m. General admission is \$25, with open seating on the patio and lawn. Children 12 and under are free. Performance held in the barn if it rains. Handicap accessible parking on site. Box Office phone number is 978.388.2552. To purchase tickets or more information check our website.

In 1985, Nicholas J. Costello with the help of other environmentally conscious state legislators realized the purchase of the 500-plus acre Moseley estate by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The purchase effectively saved the property from private developers waiting in the wings to buy this amazing tract of land on the Merrimack River. People came to enjoy simple walks in the beauty and quiet of nature.

In 1993, three men of vision were granted a special permit by the state Dept. of Environmental Management. Former Senator Nicholas J. Costello, former Mayor Edward Molin and E. James Gaines pooled their ideas, expertise and capital to create the Maudslay Arts Center, MAC.

From the rubble and decay of an area known as the "farmyard," the trio designed and built a 1600 square foot performance stage, the linchpin of an area that forms a natural bowl consisting of the patio area for chairs and tables and an adjacent lawn area nestled under the trees.

Supporting MAC...

As you enjoy this beautiful mini-Tanglewood, become part of our vision. MAC welcomes your financial support on an individual basis or corporate level. MAC is a registered 501 (c)3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible. MAC continues to operate through the effort of volunteers. All costs are offset by gate receipts, rentals, and donations from patrons and businesses. No tax dollars are involved. Please make checks payable to MAC, Inc., mail to: MAC, 182 Whitehall Road, Amesbury MA 01913.

Sponsored by the Maudslay Arts Center Inc., a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation and dedicated volunteers. We are proud to participate in Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture program. Additional support provided by the Newburyport Bank.



Cover artwork "Maudslay Gentleman" by Anne Recchia

Maudslay Arts Center



2025 Summer Concerts!

This concert season is dedicated to Nicholas J. Costello



Saturday Concerts at 7pm

July 12 *The Jorgan Trio+1*

The Jorgan Trio+1 is a powerhouse of Hammond organ jazz and soul, blending deep grooves, fiery improvisation, and infectious energy featuring Jordan Gravel on Hammond organ, Henley Douglas Jr. on saxophone, Garret Savluk on trumpet, Christopher Brown on guitar, and Patrick Gaulin on drums.



July 19 *New Black Eagle Jazz Band*

The Black Eagles, as they are often known to their fans, have been a fixture on the international jazz scene since 1971, bringing the sounds of traditional New Orleans Jazz to audiences all over the world. They are considered the "Keepers of the Flame."



July 26 *Don Campbell Band*

Known for their rich harmonies and polished musicianship, the Don Campbell Band returns to Maudsley with a concert featuring a mix of Campbell's heartfelt original songs and crowd-pleasing cover tunes spanning decades of favorites and paying homage to American roots and traditions.



August 9

Mike Monaghan Quintet

Fans of jazz and the Great American Songbook you will love Mike Monaghan Jazz Quintet. A jazz player, a woodwind specialist, and a



saxophone soloist in both the jazz and classical worlds, Mike has been a regular player and soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra for decades.

August 16 *The Ruta Beggars*

The Ruta Beggars combine bluegrass and early swing to create a timeless act filled with intricate vocal harmonies, fiery instrumentals, and plenty of fun. Featuring Micah Nicol on guitar with a rotating cast of New England's best bluegrass musicians, they've been praised for their creative arrangements and charming performances.



Sunday Concerts at 2pm

July 13

Donna Byrne

Donna's powerful voice, energetic personality, and life experiences give her music an almost spiritual feel, a soft and subtle charge that has brought admiration from jazz fans and the top artists in the industry. "She approaches her lyrics with both intelligence and swinging time."



July 20

The Love Dogs

The Love Dogs combine elements of Jump Blues, New Orleans R&B and early rock 'n' roll into their own powerhouse sound. This hard-charging septet just celebrated its anniversary wowing audiences and critics alike with their combination of great musicianship and pure fun.



July 27

*Amanda Carr with
The Ken Clark Organ
Trio & Myanna*

"A true jazz singer in a time of wannabes," vocalist Amanda Carr returns to Maudsley with The Ken Clark Organ Trio and saxophonist Myanna to present another dynamic show of jazz, blues, and soul. This is a summer concert that will generate some serious heat.



August 10

The Bobby Keyes Trio

Bobby Keyes is a guitarist whose career spans from American Roots to Pop Music. With Marty Ballou on bass and Marty Richards on drums, Bobby defines our American musical heritage by blending rhythm & blues, country, jazz, rock, pop and swing.



August 17

Hillyer Festival Orchestra

Dirk Hillyer leads the Hillyer Festival Orchestra in a "Broadway Blast!" starting soprano-entertainer Jacyn Tremblay. Hillyer's knowledge and devotion to Broadway melodies appears inexhaustible. Don't miss these timeless songs and glorious orchestrations from Broadway's best tunes including *Les Miz*, *Cabaret*, *Phantom*, *Gershwin*, and many others.



