



Methuen Cultural Council 2026

Ellen Baranowski - Chair
Alejandro Baez - Member
Olivia Chung - Member
Taana Latu - Member
Lesly Melendez - Member
Carey Smith- Member
Catherine Zembruski – Member

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location: Nevins Memorial Library; Garden Room

1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Public Participation

-Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM. In attendance: Alejandro Baez, Ellen Baranowski, Olivia Chung, Taana Latu, Carey Smith, Catherine Zembruski. Absent: Lesly Melendez. Guests: John Broscoe, Karen Broscoe, Jennifer Loiselle.

-No public participation.

-Alejandro made a motion to take the agenda out of order and start with “miscellaneous”.

Second: Taana. Vote: 6 yes. 1 absent. Passed. Council business began at 6:49 PM

2 Reading and Approval of Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 (regular meeting)

-Motion to accept: Catherine. Second: Carey. Vote: 3 yes, 3 present. Passed.*

Monday, December 1, 2025 (special meeting)

-Motion to accept: Catherine. Second: Carey. Vote: 3 yes, 3 present. Passed.*

[Ellen, Carey, Catherine= yes; Alejandro, Olivia, Taana= present]*

3 Financial Report

Share Methuen Cultural Council 2026 Approved Grants. Update on correspondences to grantees and their responses. Update on 2025 grant monies

-The spreadsheet of the accepted grants was shared with the group. Ellen updated on which grantees have responded and returned their Grant Acceptance Letters and W-9s, as well as dates for some of the events. After the warrants for the 13 returns are settled with the accounting department, those grantees will be notified of the dates they should expect their payments and reminded that we are looking for dates for events. This aligns with our group goal of having more of a presence at the events.

4 Unfinished Council Business

Proposed meeting dates for 2026 (see notes from November 17th meeting); final approval

-Although the former council approved the “proposed” 2026 calendar, we also left it “open” until the new members joined, before finalizing. Lesly notified me in an email that she has another obligation on the second Monday of the month and will not be able to make the MCC meetings.

Ellen asked her to attend this particular meeting so that we might discuss it with the larger group. She was not able to do so. There was discussion on changing the dates. It was decided to keep the calendar, as established at the November meeting. Motion to accept the dates: Alejandro. Second: Taana. Vote: 6 yes. 1 absent. Passed. The finalized calendar will be shared with our contacts at city hall and the library.

5 New Council Business

Planning for our council sponsored event. Planning for follow-up on 2026 grants

-Discussion in several areas including how the council could be better at reaching out to citizens about our purpose and work, the events that we sponsor, etc. As well, would it benefit us to better share our news through Methuen channels such as the municipal FaceBook page, etc. Some of the members want to research on those who are taking advantage of the programs and projects, and what avenues are available for outreach. That will be done this month and ready to report out at the February meeting.

-This week, Ellen has a zoom meeting with Randy Steere of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall to discuss the 2026 grant decisions, and we might be able to work in March dates for our grant celebration. Ellen will keep the group notified.

6 Announcements/Miscellaneous

Celebrate our outgoing members for their service... Jennifer Loiselle, Karen Broscoe and John Broscoe. Recognition and THANK YOU for many hours (and years) of service to the Methuen Cultural Council

-We celebrated our outgoing friends and welcomed new faces to the council. John made delicious cookies for the event. And Karen gifted Alejandro, Olivia, and Taana with official badges to signify their affiliation with the MCC.

-Next month, Ellen will bring prices for a MCC banner, for discussion.

-The agenda for monthly meetings will be shared with members and posted at city hall on the Tuesday before each meeting. Agenda items are due by the Monday before the meeting.

-In February, we will take nominations/vote for Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

7 Adjourn

Upon adjournment, those members who wish to learn more about the MCC gmail page and the MA Cultural Council website, are welcome to stay and share.

-Motion to adjourn: Olivia. Second: Taana. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

Next Regular Meeting: February 9, 2026

Anyone needing an access accommodation to participate in City of Methuen programs or services, please contact Sandy Almonte, ADA/DEI Coordinator at 978-382-2123 or salmonte@ci.methuen.ma.us at least two weeks in advance, or two business days before a board or commission meeting. This notice is available in alternate formats upon request.