



Methuen Cultural Council 2026

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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location: Nevins Memorial Library, Study Room

1 Call to Order/Roll Call/Vote to Accept Agenda/Public Participation

Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM. Present: Ellen Baranowski, Olivia Chung, Taana Latu, Carey Smith, Catherine Zembruski. Absent: Lesly Melendez. Motion to accept the agenda: Olivia. Second: Carey. Vote: 5 yes; 1 absent. Motion passed. No public participation.

2 Reading and Approval of Minutes- February 9, 2026 meeting

Minutes were considered, the addendum was tabled until later (under new business). Motion to accept the minutes: Catherine. Second: Olivia. Vote: 5 yes; 1 absent. Motion passed.

3 Financial Report- Update

Grant 26 was paid. Of our \$38,999 in grants, we have paid out \$35,239. Of our \$7860 in council programming, we have paid out \$700. We retain our full budget in administrative funds (\$1965). We discussed upcoming expenditures. The council has enough budgeted to cover all of the foreseen costs.

4 Unfinished Council Business

-Planning for our council sponsored event at MMMH

-2026 grants

The poster created to advertise our event was awesome (Thanks Taana!) Ellen updated the council on RSVPs to date, as well as the success of reaching out to the local media.

Grant 4 will take place at CGS on 03/13, Ellen will attend.

Grant 21 gave us a date for their performance at the Senior Center (May 5th, 1-3 PM).

April grant events will be attended by any member who can join, but taking the lead will be:

Grant 14 – April 9 @MHS, 6:00-7:30 PM (Carey)

Grant 19 – April 11 @Nevins Memorial Library, 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM (Taana)

Grant 2 – April 14 @Senior Center, 1:00 PM (Ellen)

Grant 3 – April 15 @Senior Center, 1:00 PM (Catherine)

5 New Council Business-

-Meeting with Mayor Beauregard

Ellen reported on some changes in venue. We have secured the bands for the June and August events. We will need a table and brochures for the council. Next meeting: April 2 @ 1:00 PM.

-(Draft) Proposal for Increasing Engagement in the Cultural Council

We agreed there are some good ideas in the document to use as a “jumping off” point for this council. Motion to table until the April meeting: Taana. Second: Ellen. Vote: 5 yes; 1 absent. Motion passed. Document tabled.

-Resignation

Alejandro Baez’s resignation from the council was read. We wish him the best of luck on Methuen School Committee.

-Modification to grant

Grant 19 will be modified and \$550 will be returned to the council.

-Software Program

Not needed, at this time.

6 Engagement and Outreach Subcommittee Report

Discussion on correspondence with the mayor’s office for a connection with someone on the city’s side who can add us to their social media account. Ongoing.

7 Announcements/Miscellaneous

-Staples banner designs 1 & 2

Action Item: The E&O Subcommittee will work on alternative choices.

We forgot “picture day”. Action Item: We moved it to 03/28 at the event.

Action Item: Catherine will work on getting a caterer for the event.

8 Adjourn *Motion to adjourn: Taana. Second: Catherine. Vote: 5 yes; 1 absent. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.*

Next Regular Meeting: April 13, 2026, 6:30 PM

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.