Biddeford Public Art Commission
Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2026

In attendance:

- Jessica Muise, Chair
- Commission: Coco Corral, Rebecca Cote and Beth Whitney
- Staff Liaison: Erika Dube, Deputy Recreation Director
- Council Liaison: Councilor Abigail Woods
- Guests:
    - Bethany Cox, local documentary photographer
    - Larry Weyand, Art of Biddeford Program Director
- Absences: Braden Drypolcher
- *Two Commission Vacancies: Student Liaison and one Voting Member*

1. Meeting Called to Order: 5:04PM

2. Approval of June 2026 Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Abigail Woods
- Seconded: Coco Corral
- Discussion: correction noted under "In attendance" to update Councilor Woods last name
- Vote: motion amended and unanimously approved as amended

2. Adjustments to agenda: reorder discussion items, starting with 3.a and moving to 3.d, and then back to original order.

Discussion Items

3.a Commission Goals 2025-2026

- **Master Plan: Policy Meetings to resume later this summer/fall.** Currently Policy Meetings are deferred with the introduction of the new interim City Manager. Because the Master Plan approval has been extended, this item can be added to commission goals for 2026-2027. The current draft has been sent to DEI for review, and will also be sent to Larry Weyand for feedback.
- **Commission Member Status – Vacancies: 1 voting member seat and 1 Youth Seat/Student Liaison.** Commission discussed outreach strategies including:
    - Sending to local artist groups: Mill Studio Arts, July 31 "Artist by the Sea" event, etc.
    - Promoting at upcoming events like ArtWalk

    - Post current commission vacancies in the Biddeford Beat – Erika will inquire
    - Potentially hosting a commission social event, adjacent to September meeting (to be discussed during August meeting)
    - Art Commission presentation at BHS when classes resume in the fall – Erika will email BHS art teacher in August to see if this can be integrated into fall curriculum.
    - Erika will share the BPAC vacancies poster with the commission to promote.
- **Commission Logo:** Coco will resend finalists to Commission; vote to be held at August meeting.
- **Budget: Council meeting July 21st to present FY26 carry forward request.** The brief has been submitted, and Jess will attend to present on behalf of the BPAC. Commission members are invited to attend as well. Erika confirmed that we have until July 30th to encumber funds earmarked for FY26 if the carry forward request is not approved. *See 3.b for additional budget discussion*.

3.d Project proposal: Documentary Photography Exhibit of City Theater's production of "The Secret Garden": Bethany Cox, local documentary photographer, attended the meeting to share information about her three-month project documenting the theater production from auditions, set design, and rehearsals. Her goal is to promote the work of the theater by displaying the photos publicly (example at City Hall), creating awareness for what the theater does and potentially use this to support fundraising efforts. The commission supported having the photography featured for the August 1-September 18, 2026 City Hall Gallery exhibit. Bethany agreed that this timeline works and can print and frame the photos. She and Rebecca will meet to discuss and plan the exhibit; Erika will share their emails with one another.

3.b Five Points Sign Project with DDC:

Discussion Notes: HOB/AOB will be the fiscal sponsor of this project. The BPAC would like to meet with the DDC, either at a future meeting of theirs or invite them to attend, to discussion collaboration, project costs, fundraising, etc.

Budget request to produce full-size rendering of 1 numeral from 04005 design: the commission voted to reimburse Brad Favreau for the cost of the full-size print out of one of "04005" numerals used to display for HOB meeting from the FY26 budget:

- Motion to Approve: Rebecca Cote
- Seconded: Beth Whitney
- Discussion: none
- Vote: motion unanimously approved

Erika will work with Brad to submit the reimbursement request now. Following this vote, the commission discussed additional budgetary considerations:

- Amending the brief for the carry forward request to reduce the $1,250 carry forward request by $166 for the print reimbursement: request to be updated to $1,084.
- Rebecca led a review of the wheat paste mural project. The carry forward request for FY26 is intended to be combined with the FY27 budget to cover the following:
    - Print costs for five 2x7 posters: $450 total
    - Artist installation fees: $1,000; may be reduced by city dept. in-kind support
    - Installation supplies - glue and brushes: $25+ (cost variable based on anticipated length of installation, i.e. different types of glue to use, etc)
    - Artist redesign fees: TBD
    - Rebecca will create a final project budget for Jess to present to Council with the carry forward brief.
- The commission voted on the following motion: If the FY26 carry forward request is not approved or if the agenda item is delayed to a later Council meeting agenda, FY26 funds will be used prior to July 30th towards print costs for posters, installation supplies, and artist redesign fees (estimated at $908).
    - Motion to Approve: Councilor Woods
    - Seconded: Jess Muise
    - Discussion: none
    - Vote: motion unanimously approved

3.c City Hall Gallery/July ArtWalk:

Discussion about the current items featured in City Hall and how best to present a well-curated and continuous flow gallery exhibit. Jess will draft an inquiry and proposal to share with City Administration.

July 17, 2026 ArtWalk commission member assignments:

- A-frame signage and supplies: Erika will have ready; Coco will pick up at the Community Center on Thursday
- 1st Shift: Abigail and Jess
- 2nd Shift: Beth Whitney

Remaining ArtWalk dates this season:

- **Friday, August 21, 2026: discussion for sponsoring an activity during Fringe Fest/River Jam. Example: public survey to prioritize project ideas list and/or interactive art activity**. This year's theme is "Cabinet of Curiosities". Coco, Erika

and Jess will attend and create an interactive opportunity for public engagement that incorporates the theme.
- Friday, September 18, 2026
- Friday, October 16, 2026

3.e Reminder: Sensing the Coast exhibit – July 10th 5:00-8:00pm, Building 13, Pepperell Mill Campus

4.a Review of projects list: *the following projects were discussed*

- City Museum / Museum Crawl: Fire Dept, St Louis Alumni/LaKermesse, BCHC: Jess attended a meeting on July 8th at FD to continue conversations about the museum crawl or cultural crawl. HOB/AOB would support this type of event. Potential to consider hosting this type of event in September/October in combination with the fall ArtWalks. Explore transportation options/needs: biking, walking, van access/possible Age Friendly collaboration.
- Traffic Calming Interventions: safe crosswalk initiative, etc. The Traffic Committee will be meeting on August 25th at 6:00PM at City Hall; BPAC will review this project at the August meeting to share with the Traffic Committee.

5. Other Business: N/A

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30PM

- Motion to Adjourn: Councilor Woods
- Seconded: Beth Whitney
- Vote: Unanimously approved

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 5:00PM. Location: Room 2, J. Richard Martin Community Center – 189 Alfred Street