



Methuen Cultural Council 2026

Ellen Baranowski - Chair
Salma Boulal - Member
Olivia Chung - Member
Taana Latu -Member
Luis Sanchez - Member
Carey Smith- Member
Catherine Zembruski – Member

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location: Nevins Memorial Library, Study Room

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

In attendance: Ellen Baranowski, Olivia Chung, Taana Latu, Luis Sanchez, Catherine Zembruski. Absent: Salma Boulal, Carey Smith. Meeting commenced at 6:35 PM. No public participation.

2 Reading and Approval of Minutes- April 13, 2026 meeting

Motion to accept: Olivia. Second: Taana. Vote: 5 yes, 2 absent. Motion passed.

3 Financial Report- Update-

-Since our last meeting, grant #1 was paid. We have paid out \$35,999 of our \$38,999 in grants. The MCC was credited with \$550 from a grant that did not take place, leaving us with \$3550. in that account. Two grants are still outstanding: Grant #6 (\$1900) and Grant # 12 (\$1000). They will be paid upon request/completion of paperwork from the grantees.

-We have \$6460 remaining in our Council Sponsored Programs account (we have promised \$4500 for music for the next three city events.)

-We have \$1889.86 remaining in our Administrative account.

4 Unfinished Council Business

-Welcome New Members none

-2026 grants update #19 StoryTelling Workshop (re-sched) 07/28 @ MAN, Inc 10:00 AM and Nevins Library at 12:00

-May/June events:

- #2 This Land is Your Land @ Senior Center 04/14, 1:00 (Ellen)*
- #3 The Jazz Committee @ Senior Center 04/15, 1:00 (Catherine)*
- #20 Musical Baseball Show @ Nevins Library 04/15, 6:30 (Taana)*
- #1 AppleJack Trio @ Senior Center 04/21, 1:00 (Ellen)*
- #4 Prismatic Magic @CGS 04/30, 9:00 (Ellen)*

Reports were given by the point people who attended the performances

5 New Council Business

-Meeting with Mayor Beauregard- Review

-Member(s) of the Engagement and Outreach Committee will contact Luis Santiago about connecting with the city's social media accounts.

-As part of the outreach plan, Luis created an Instagram account that will link to our current FaceBook. Luis will meet with Carey to settle that, and we should be able to post to both.

-Ellen will take some photos of local places of interest (Searles Building/City Hall, MMMH, waterfall, NML, GreyCourt, MFD Lowell Street station, clockface in the town center) and send them to Taana who will make coloring pages out of them. We will bring those to the next event. Ellen will get candy for our table.

-Conflict of Interest Training

-Photo for Social Media Profile *on hold until possibly June 12th*

-May/June events:

- #5 Timony Grammar School Drama Club 05/20 and 05/21, 6:00 (05/21-Taana)
- #12 Methuen 300th Committee Military Encampment 05/30, 10:00-3:00 (Olivia)
- #15/~~#16~~ MMMH Music Hall Days 05/28, 05/29 @ MMMH, begins 9/9:15, 11:00 (approx times) (Catherine or Ellen)
- #21 GemsTones @ Senior Center 05/05, 1:00-3:00 (Catherine)
- #23 Tenney Grammar School Drama Club 05/29@6:00 and 05/30@2:00 (05/29 Taana and Luis)

NEW:

- #18 Belly Dancing for Seniors @ Senior Center ~~6/3, 1:30~~ () TBD
- #25 Live Music Making History Live @ Senior Center 6/5, 10 AM (Catherine)

-Review of Materials that Greg brought to our event will be viewed and discussed for our summer events.

Materials were determined to be too "state" oriented for our purposes. We can bring them to our table for the next event. However, Olivia is willing to create a similar 5x7 card with some local Methuen information and can help inform people of our role within the community.

6 Engagement and Outreach Subcommittee Report

7 Announcements/Miscellaneous

Ellen read correspondence for the GemStones. As well, we received a very nice thank you note from Linda Soucy at M.A.N., Inc. which was read and shared.

8 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Taana. Second: Olivia. Vote: 5 yes, 2 absent. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: June 8, 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.

Amended 04.13.2026