Chester Cultural Council
Chester, Ma

Tuesday June 30, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Chair: Muriel Hall
Co-Chair Carol Hepworth

Members: Charles Schoonmaker, Karen Matchetto, Melissa McAuliffe

Meeting called to order at 6:02

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

June Cultural Council Updates:

- Conversations about fundraising
- Muriel to send out attachments for PowerPoint on LCC link.

Fundraising activities moving forward

- Possible use of earned Interest for fundraising expenses

- Funding ways to raise funds appropriately

Previously we used interest and in used grants to provided 7,500 for last years grants 5,500+ 2,000

Questions raised

1. Why Raise?
2. Who From?
3. Donation purpose

Raising money would allow us to support different types of events.

Different suggestions on how to make it easy and convenient to raise funds, using different strategies

- opportunities

- Merchandise
- Crowd fun
- Donors
- Kickstart
- GoFundMe

Old Business:

Grant recipient updates:

The high school was given a check for $50. Which squared away they're overpayment from last year.

Banner Discussion:

Latika Printing is currently the company working on the 250 year banner.

M.H. States some images are still needed, and will be working with John from historical to acquire these photos.

The artwork for the sign is $140
The sign itself is $225

Bringing total production to $365

The banner would be 7 1/2 feet tall on a pole stand that would be easy to erect and move from place to place.

The group as a whole has reviewed the draft banner to decide if the cost is worth it.

Suggestion was also added of having a QR code for the banner

Positive comments were shared

Muriel and her husband have offered to crew the cost of the banner to donate to the cultural Council.

Melissa made a motion to vote that we purchased the banner, Charles second the motion. All we were in favor.

Survey Discussion:

Carol created a draft survey, she also contacted multiple towns to compile the survey.

Survey was sent by email and reviewed by members

Melissa to make a Google survey out of the draft.

Muriel to ask for a link to survey to be on Watts News.

Guidelines and Priorities:

Carol and Muriel have done a Town by Town research in regards to guidelines and priorities of local cultural councils.

Currently our group is looking to change some verbiage

Adding that " the local Chester culture Council awards grants to Chester in the surrounding Hill towns"

Try to fully fund as many grants as possible

The discussion was had about the difference between keeping it to solely Chester grants versus Hilltown grants

Majority believe that even Hilltown grants do benefit Chester because Chester residence can attend these events

The verbiage is prioritize funding grants which enrich Chester and its surrounding Hill towns

Also, we discussed a description of the type of grants we are looking for and or looking to approve

" project celebrating local history, cultural diversity, and the arts"

Communitywide, gatherings, including festivals and plays

Restoration preservation project discussion on whether to eliminate

group in agreement to get rid of

Ending Notes:

Grant recipient projects must demonstrate their relationship to the Town.

Grant projects need to be completed in one year of date

Discussion of pushing back, grant recipient reception, to be discussed at next meeting.

Charles made a motion to end the meeting, and Carol second, all were in favor.

Meeting adjournment 7:17