

## Marblehead Cultural Council April 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

6:30 pm

Abbot Library, Marblehead Room #304, Meeting Type: Hybrid

Meeting minutes by Marjorie Norman

### **Attendees:**

Jeanie Stahl, Chair

Aaron Liber, Co-Chair

Jim Murphy, Treasurer

Marjorie Norman, Secretary

Joseph Dipoli

Alex MacAaron

Steve McClure

Jennifer Uhl

Susan Wood

Katherine Zuccala (currently non-voting, to be sworn in)

### **Not Attending:**

Katherine Barker, Co-Chair

### **Special Guest**

Greg Torrales – Massachusetts Cultural Council (remote)

### **Chair called meeting to order at 6:30 pm**

Abbreviated version of Land Acknowledgement read. (Available under “Other” at [MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org](http://MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org).)

### **Welcome New Member**

Katherine Zuccala

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve

Vote – all in favor

### **Treasurer’s Report**

After both spent and allocated/encumbered grant funds, the MCC currently has \$144.80 (plus January, February and March interest still to be posted by the town). Jeanie Stahl may donate some funds from her performance at the Massachusetts Cultural Council reception, if needed for administrative costs and/or special projects i.e. Marblehead Cultural Council reception.

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### Term Expiration Dates

Mark Philip has resigned, notifying the Select Board and the MHD CC with a letter read by the chair.

Jeanie Stahl's term expires in June 2026; she will renew.

Jennifer Uhl's term also expires in June 2026. She is not eligible to renew, but may continue as a non-voting member, if desired, until June 2027 at which point she will then be able to rejoin.

### Grantee Reception

The reception for MCC grantees will be held on June 10, 2026, at the Abbott Public Library Courtyard. Alex MacAaron, Kathy Barker and Marjorie Norman will co-chair. It will likely be similar to the previous year's event, with MCC members asked to supply food and beverages. Alex will design invitations and Save the Date emails will go out immediately. All MCC members are encouraged to reach out personally to their Grantees to encourage attendance.

### Special Guest – Greg Torrales (Massachusetts Cultural Council)

Greg, our LCC's program liaison, periodically checks in with local cultural councils under his purview for a FY 26 cycle debrief, to answer questions and provide support. A discussion was held concerning the maximum number of members serving on a local cultural council. State statute requires a minimum of 5 and maximum of 22. At present, no Massachusetts LCC has more than 13 members. Greg stated that each municipality has the ability to change the upper limit of members and make it lower than 22 though the minimum of 5 must remain.

The Massachusetts CC is in discussion to extend term lengths and limits to enable members to stay on longer. This will assist smaller communities where finding volunteers is more challenging.

Concern was expressed that the MHD CC could reach the more than the currently at 11 members as open slots are regularly posted in the local papers. This could make for an excessively large group for a community of Marblehead's size.

Two options were provided by Greg:

1. Provide potential new members the opportunity to become a non-voting volunteer. They could still engage in any other activities (i.e. liaison), but not vote on awarding grants and other voting actions.
2. Approach Select Board proposing that it does not continue to advertise open positions at the MCC and promote non-voting option.

Although a majority of council members supported the concept of limiting the MCC membership to 11, further discussion and voting is required. This will take place at a future MCC meeting.

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A short discussion was held concerning the opportunity for Local CCs to raise funds independently i.e. apply to other grant programs, sell ticketed events, etc. This will be one of the topics under review/discussion with the Massachusetts CC with a Zoom meeting being held on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> for further input.

### **Liaison/Grantee Status**

Co-Chair distributed and reviewed list of current Grantees, Liaisons, events/projects, and reimbursement status.

Joseph Dipoli – Resistance and Resilience: Slavery and Freedom in Marblehead – Although there was a cut in federal funding, the exhibit is still on target to open June 1.

Marjorie Norman – Marblehead Festival of Arts/Performing Arts – The schedule of performers has been announced (including Jeanie Stahl). Marjorie to ask about logo placement on a banner or in the program for duration of the festival.

Steve McClure – School to Sea: Connecting Marblehead Families to Salem Sound – No dates yet determined for the multiple presentations.

Jennifer Uhl/Susan Wood– Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead – The first presentation took place with 30 people attending in person and 13 via Zoom. Future dates are May 27, June 17 and Sept 2 at Abbot Public Library. Jen will speak to Donna about a payment schedule.

Jim Murphy – Nature in Your Neighborhood – All about Birds – Scheduled for May 22 at 8am at the Audubon sanctuary.

Katherine Barker – (Jeanie Stahl reported for Kathy who was not at the meeting). Community Murals for Low Income Senior Residents of Marblehead Public Housing – 2 planters were funded and SPUR put out a call for volunteers to prepare them for the artwork. Jim will look into making a video of the project.

Jeanie Stahl – Romeo & Juliet at Marblehead High Lanes Coven Theater – Jeanie attended the performance and reported that it was received with great enthusiasm. Workshops with all Freshmen English classes first took place, then they all attended an updated, truncated performance.

Alex MacAaron – Voices of Heritage: AAPI Art – Windy Pham is having trouble connecting to the Library to schedule space. She now has contact names and will pursue scheduling.

Aaron Liber – Marblehead Free Days (Children’s Museum – Peabody)- Free days for Marblehead residents scheduled for May 16/17<sup>th</sup>. The program is established as a draw-down where initially there will be 2-3 sessions. If the money is used up, the program ends, if

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money is still available, the program will be extended. No family/child will be turned away and the Museum will absorb some overage, if necessary.

Jim and Kathy will continue to provide social medial updates and publicity as dates approach for each event/program.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2026, 6:30pm at Abbot Public Library.

Meeting minutes compiled by Marjorie Norman and edited by Jeanie Stahl.