

Marblehead Cultural Council June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

6:30 pm

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

Meeting minutes by Marjorie Norman

Attendees:

Jeanie Stahl, Chair

Katherine Barker, Co-Chair

Aaron Liber, Co-Chair

Jim Murphy, Treasurer

Marjorie Norman, Secretary

Joseph Dipoli

Alex MacAaron

Steve McClure (remote)

Jennifer Uhl

Susan Wood

Not Attending:

Katherine Zuccala

Chair called meeting to order at 6:36 pm

Abbreviated version of Land Acknowledgement read. (Available under “Other” at MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org.)

Approval of Minutes of 4/15/2026

Motion to approve

Vote – all in favor

Treasurer’s Report

After both spent and allocated/encumbered grant funds, the MCC will have an available balance of \$217.69 to be used for administrative items.

Liaison/Grantee Status

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

Liaison Joseph Dipoli for Marblehead Museum Exhibit – Resistance and Resilience: Slavery and Freedom in Marblehead - Processed and paid.

Liaison Marjorie Norman – Marblehead Festival of Arts/Performing Arts – The schedule of performers has been announced (including Jeanie Stahl). Marjorie provided logo to Grantee for placement on promotional materials (banner, program, etc.) for duration of the festival.

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Liaison Steve McClure – School to Sea: Connecting Marblehead Families to Salem Sound – Initial programs have been conducted and others scheduled for the summer (June 26, July 31, August 28).

Liaison Jennifer Uhl/Susan Wood– for Donna Cotterell/Don Doliber Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead – The second presentation took place with approximately 30 people attending in person. Future dates are June 17 and Sept 2 at Abbot Public Library.

Liaison Jim Murphy: - Nature in Your Neighborhood – All about Birds – Program completed on May 22 at the Marblehead Audubon Sanctuary with 12 people participating.

Liaison Katherine Barker: - Community Murals for Low Income Senior Residents of Marblehead Public Housing – Project completed and 2 planters were painted. Paperwork for grant money is in process. A photo release will be obtained so photos/videos can be used.

Liaison Jeanie Stahl: – Romeo & Juliet at Marblehead High Lanes Coven Theater – Program completed and paperwork in process.

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

Liaison Aaron Liber: – Marblehead Free Days (Children’s Museum – Peabody)- Program completed and awaiting final numbers, but deemed successful as all passes (except three or so) used during the first weekend. Paperwork in process.

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

Grantee Reception

Due to poor response, the reception for MCC grantees in June was postponed until sometime in the Fall. We will explore options of possibly working with the Swampscott Cultural Council to host a combined reception for both towns. Marjorie will reach out to Swampscott to see if it is interested in collaborating.

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Election of New Officers for 7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027 and Term Expiration Dates

A slate was presented with new/returning officers:

Jeanie Stahl – Chair
Katherine Barker – Co-Chair
Aaron Liber – Co-Chair
James Murphy – Treasurer
Marjorie Norman – Secretary

Motion to approve

Vote – all in favor

Jennifer Uhl completed her term as an MCC member and former Chair and was presented with a plant. Although her term limit has been met, we hope that she will continue to participate in and contribute to the MCC.

Website/Publicity

The website is now being updated regularly with documents (meeting minutes, council members, etc.), as well as listing each grant-funded program as it comes up in the calendar.

There was a discussion as to whether the photo of the Pride Flag sidewalk artwork should be removed from the home page. Although it is colorful and demonstrates the Council's commitment to inclusivity, it is no longer a MCC grant-funded project and has been removed from its installation site.

No decision was made, and Marjorie will look into how to add dynamic images to the home page.

Press releases will be sent to the local papers pre- and post- project to enhance MCC activities. Kathy/Jim request that Liaisons send information about their upcoming programs about 2 weeks prior to the execution date.

It was also suggested that perhaps James Maroney could be asked to create a video about the MCC and the granting process.

There has been an increase in the MCC Facebook activity and followers to 398, spiking in January and May. The May spike may be attributed to the increase in publicity on social media sites, particularly around the Children's Museum program.

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Donations and Private Fundraising

There was an open discussion concerning the opportunity for Local CCs to raise funds independently i.e. apply to other grant programs, sell ticketed events, etc.

Jim presented case for soliciting donations. Unlike larger communities, Marblehead does not get a lot of money from the State. Having more money would allow the MCC to fund more projects. Other CCs conduct fundraising events, thus allowing funds to reach more grantees or provide larger grants. Although the philanthropic community is stretched and soliciting large donations is challenging, small (\$25-\$50) donations could make a difference.

Questions/Comments

- Can town process the donations?
 - Probably, but this would require discussions with the Finance department as to how to do it.
- There is a challenge in that in order to solicit additional funding, there must be people willing to organize fundraising activities. It is difficult to get volunteers to do this. There would also be an expense associated with any fundraising activity.
- In the past, the MCC has not refused a worthy applicant due to lack of funds, although there are cases in which we have given less than what was asked.
- As Marblehead is a small community, there is the potential to compete with other local organizations to which we might be giving grants.
- On the plus side, it would be nice to have additional money that could fund the MCC's own projects, such as the public art Pride Flag sidewalk painting undertaken in the past by the Council.

This topic will continue to be discussed.

Other Business

- June 25, 12:30pm - Joe is giving a presentation with Lauren McCormack on The Indispensables at Abbot Public Library.
- July 1, 6pm - Jeanie and Mason Daring will be performing at the Marblehead Festival of Arts (Crocker Park)
- July 2, 2pm - Neidgine Destine – will be performing at the Marblehead Festival of Arts (Crocker Park)
- Thanks to Alex for providing delightful fish-themed cupcakes for our meeting!

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 12, 2026, 6:30pm at Abbot Public Library.

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