



TOWN OF PUTNAM
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
TOWN HALL
200 SCHOOL STREET • PUTNAM, CT 06260

Putnam Arts Council
REGULAR MEETING
Monday March 23, 2026
MINUTES

PRESENT: L. Moorehead, Chairman, Anna lonkin, Oliver Williamson, Carmine Angeloni, B Johnston

ABSENT: E Turner, J. Reid

ALSO PRESENT: M. A. Chinatti, Director, Economic & Community Dev./Redev, Susan Ramos Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Moorehead called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

1. Roll call was taken; it was determined a quorum was present.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: **(M/S/C Williamson/lonkin)** February 2, 2026 minutes as presented, Carried unanimously. Chairman Moorehead pointed out an incorrect spelling of Anna lonkin's name to be corrected. **(M/S/C Williamson/lonkin)** to approve the February 23, 2026 minutes with the correction.
3. Additions to the Agenda:
 - l. Poet Laureate event **(M/S/C Angeloni/Williamson)** to add the item to the agenda.
4. Finances:
 - l. Budget Report – Report presented to council by Susan Ramos. Funds coming from sponsorships and the Art Heist. No budget questions from committee members.
5. New Business:
 - l. Term Limits for Officers
Chairman Moorehead looking for suggestions on limiting terms for the officers stating most organizations rotate out the Chair and Vice Chair to give everyone a chance and feels it is a good idea.

M.A. Chinatti clarified that the officers get elected every year.

Chairman Moorehead stated a 4-year term would be a good idea.
 - O. Williamson stated he would like to discuss this option, and he felt it didn't make a lot of sense because it would require some planning and coaching for a new person.

Chairman Moorehead suggested voting every 4 years giving the person can decide to accept or ask someone else to step in. O. Williamson agreed. Would anyone like to make a motion?

B Johnston stated if it's phrased this way should it be every 3 years instead. She felt this term limit would be a little more manageable.

Chairmen Moorehead stated that the officer roles are very good experience for someone.

Chairman Moorehead stated to rephrase the motion the officers Chair and Vice Chair are limited to 3 years M.A. Chinatti suggested term limits of chair and vice chair shall be 3 years unless the Arts Council votes to extend.

(M/S/C Johnston/Angeloni) O. Williamson abstained due to having questions.

II. Arts Council Organization Discussion:

Chairman Moorehead stated she spoke with M. A. Chinatti regarding what she would like to see within the Arts Council and provided handouts. Does the Putnam Arts Council want to stay as a commission of the town or would like to become independent thru a 501c3 non-profit. Chart handouts provide positive and negative thoughts. If the council stays as is they have the support of the town staff, free use of the festival grounds not including maintenance staff fees. If we change, we will lose the support and take on the extra tasks. Change would allow freedom from following town rules such as FOI act, size limit. Stay as is we are limited to town residents, if we change, we can accept non-residents such as Putnam Business Owners which would be a nice addition to the council. Would we get more people?

B. Johnston asked if they could use Rotary Park as the council stands now? M.A. Chinatti stated you would have to go through the same process of reserving the space, and stated Rotary Park is use frequently for other events.

Chairman Moorehead stated as they stand now, there is a limited availability for grants for a town organization as opposed to a non-profit. We are currently a stand-alone group, but to consider, as a stand-alone non-profit group we would be responsible for everything ex: legal, accounting, paperwork filing, liability insurance and possibly fees. Chairman Moorehead feels there is a confusion having 3 different art groups in the area. Questions have been asked what the difference is. We would want to talk with the Art Guild and the PBA if we did break off from the town to somehow be associated with them which would save us the paperwork of a 501c3, but we would be a part of another group which comes with its own set of problems or possibilities. Mayor is very supportive of the arts, would this change if there were a new administration?

B. Johnston stated she was on the team putting together the Art Festival. A stand-alone faced a lot of hurdles including size, traffic, police. As we stand now, we have the connections and relationships with the town that we may lose if we broke away. B. Johnston likes being part of the town and feels some time should be taken to process all of this.

Chairman Moorehead asked if anyone had anything to say regarding this topic. Suggested getting thru the Art Festival first.

O. Williamson stated it seems like its all-encompassing everything we do as an Arts Council would then get shifted to 501c3 status. Can we try a 5013c as a project?

Chairman Moorehead stated this can't be done due to rules and regulations that follow a 5013c. Check with other 501c3 organizations to get some ideas.

O Williamson asked what the MuralFest was classified as. Chairman Moorehead stated it is part of the town, using the town as their financial overseer. They are not a 501c3.

B. Johnston asked if they broke off what would happen to the Corridor Gallery. All questions to think about.

M.A. Chinatti stated when she came to the Town of Putnam, she researched how the Arts Council was formed. The BOS was presented 3 options by then town Attorney Bill StOnge. He gave 3 options, 1 was a 501c3 and came back to the BOS and stated for the time being we should go with the option of being under the town umbrella and not becoming a 501c3.

Chairman Moorehead stated, keep this topic as an agenda item, if there is anything to talk about it will be at the next meeting.

III. Poet Laureate:

Aubrey has reached out to Chairman Moorehead stating she has an event in July that she is requesting some funds for.

C. Angeloni provided information, speaking with Aubrey her ideas were a tour of a State Park or Chairman Moorehead's property for this art and history event. She would like to invite an indigenous representation (Nipmuc) to give a discussion about tribes in our area. This would be combined with Aubrey leading a writing workshop. A tour of the Moorehead property, led by Aubrey and then the speaker. Initially Aubrey requested 2 people. Will look into 1 person as C. Angeloni suggested. The cost is \$250.00 for one person. Chairman Moorehead stated she would like a limit of 25 people to attend at no charge.

O. Williamson asked if it would be an invite only (including a plus 1) list or open to the public. He stated when he spoke with her originally it seemed she was hand picking people. Would there be some kind of evaluation sheet provided for future reference.

Chairman Moorehead stated the need for a more "flushed-out" outline of the event, which C. Angeloni stated he would get from Aubrey for the next meeting.

B. Johnston stated a concern for invitation only and yet asking for public funding.

M. A. Chinatti suggested open to the public and limit to the first 25 people. C. Angeloni and B Johnston both liked this suggestion.

6. Old Business:

I. Particle Accelerator:

Chairman Moorehead stated that she and Beth spoke with Eric the organizer of the event

and then attended a meeting of the group organizing the event.

Discussed a shuttle running all day connecting Particle Accelerator and the Art Festival. PA is not sure of event hours. We shouldn't get attached to the event, it doesn't seem flushed out at this time.

M.A. Chinatti informed Chairman Moorehead they will still have the shuttle, if not associated with Particle Accelerator, free of charge, complements of Jimmy Callaghan of the Recreation Department.

B. Johnston suggested we take the lead on how the marketing will be. As we market send to their social media page.

M.A. Chinatti stated Jimmy Callaghan will be reaching out to Eric and Laura.

II. MuralFest:

Chairman Moorehead stated she and B. Johnston went to the meeting. They have raised quite a bit of money. Committee members will be taking a trip to Wisconsin/ Oregon to see how other MuralFests are done.

The contact with the Walldogs who are the people doing the murals said we are so far ahead of the MuralFest coming up in 2027.

III. Art Festival Update:

Chairman Moorehead stated we need to solidify assignments and committees.
Music – J. Reid and will double check with her.

B. Johnston stated finding food vendor and food trucks, and ice cream, not a big outreach confirming dates and follow ups.

C. Angeloni stated they had a cancellation and Renee's Catering shuttled food, which may be a consideration for this year.

Chairman Moorehead hoping E. Turner will oversee volunteers again this year.

Promotions was triple teamed between Chairman Moorehead, A. Ionkin & B. Johnston. All are willing again.

C. Angeloni offered to help S. Moorehead with the layout and map.

B. Johnston suggested reaching out to Last Green Valley, Chairman Moorehead stated that that has been done and they are on board. Also, PBA coordinator for Facebook website.

B. Johnston said what they did last year; the Town created the site and they cohosted for more exposure. She also sent an email to Jeff Andrade for digital ads.

Chairman Moorehead reached out to Vanilla Bean for their ad and they are all set.

IV. Non-Profit:

Chairman Moorehead stated Last Green Valley is on board. Chairman Moorehead stated they met with Pluck a Duck rep Beth and Sheila from PBA, they are going to occupy the tent that housed the NE Art Guild and will including children's activities.

V. Sponsor Update:

No new sponsors

VI. Artist Applications:

B. Johnston stated there are 51 applications, but they lost 2. Sent out early acceptances. anyone with 6 or 7 average were sent an email. Out of 30, 7 returned booth payments 1 request for spot close to loading, response was they would do their best, there is help available. From an accounting perspective, funds will come in the same way. Did receive request from a dance group, maybe for next year to consider. Reminders will be sent out, only 51 vendors so far. Would like to get to 60. People with deeper pockets would help keep it more fine art. B. Johnston stated she promotes with other Art Festivals she attends. B. Johnston also stated 2 of the higher end artists are not returning this year due to people not purchasing their high-end art.

Chairman Moorehead stated if the fine arts aren't working out there is always more crafts. Maybe make it more than an Arts Festival. Checking with Jenn at PBA for that idea.

C. Angeloni asked if we were going to be able to work Aubrey into this. Having a reading maybe.

7. Art Heist Update:

Chairman Moorehead said it was an awesome event. People have already expressed interest for next year. No further comments.

8. Scholarships:

Chairman Moorehead gave members posters to post. It is also on the website, social media and done a press release. Chairman Moorehead asked if anyone would like to reach out to schools, colleges or art class instructors to give out posters to.

A. Ionkin offered to go to QVCC and stated she had contacts in the art dept.

M.A. Chinatti asked for flier to be emailed to S. Ramos and she will email it around.

9. Art Museum Trip:

Chairman Moorehead suggested having another one after the Art Festival. Past trips were Peabody Essex Museum & MFA Boston. Chairman Moorehead stated it may be nice to have something to include children, maybe include a teacher to go along.

B. Johnston suggested New Britain.

C. Angeloni suggested Dr. Suess in Springfield MA.

10. Member Alternates:

Chairman Moorehead expressed asking people to apply.

11. Corridor Gallery:

Chairman Moorehead stated that Anna Ionkin will be the next artist. Her reception is on 4-4-26 from 1:00 to 3:00. Jamie's wedding dress will stay in the window for now.

12. Public Participation:

Kim White stated she would like to volunteer and has great organizational skills.

Chairman Moorehead stated a group of volunteers has been in past discussion.

13. Adjournment*

(M/S/C Johnston/Williamson) to adjourn at 7:46PM with no further business. Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ramos

Vote required *