

**Putnam Arts Council
Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting
August 24, 2026
Minutes**

Present: Laura Moorehead, Chair, Elaine Turner Vice Chair, Anna Ionkin,
Carmine Angeloni, Beth Johnston

Absent: Julie Reid

Also Present: Mary Ann Chinatti, Director, Economic & Community Dev/Redev., Susan Ramos,
Economic Development Coordinator

1. Call to Order: Chairman Moorehead called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
It was determined a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

(M/S/C Angeloni/Johnston) to approve the minutes of July 27, 2026, as presented. Approved
unanimously.

3. Additions to the agenda: None

4. Finances:

I. Budget Report – The budget report was reviewed.

5. New Business:

I. 2026 Grant Cycle

Chairman Moorehead handed out copies of grant posters. Grant totals were up to \$1000.00. The same amount as the scholarship and 3 businesses applied last year and it was split. Members discussed whether they wanted to stay at \$1000.00 or increase amount. **E. Turner** suggested an increase to \$1500.00. **E Turner** made a motion to increase the grant amount and eliminate the number of proposals accepted. **(M/S/C Turner/Johnston)** approved unanimously. **Chairman Moorehead** stated that the businesses should be providing proof of how the funds were spent. Also, would like to leave the deadline what it was last year.

II. Museum Trip

Chairman Moorehead has reached out to Datco for pricing and is still waiting for their response. Last year the quote was approx. \$2200.00 seating 50 passengers. Two good Boston options were available. One would be MFA, group tickets were \$22.00. Also, Egypt's Golden Age, focuses on 3 pharaohs from Egypt the exhibit runs until December 6. Picasso, Miro' and Dali' Special exhibit until January 24. There is also an audio tour around the Odyssey happening now. She stated that it would be nice to see the movie and then go to see the exhibit at the museum.

Gardner Museum is a beautifully decorated museum for the holidays. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Is there an interest in doing another museum trip? Last year's trip was sold out. **Chairman Moorehead** would provide more information to the next meeting.

6. Old Business:

I. MuralFest

MA. Chinatti explained the town's legal requirements. Art Council or Recreation, the attorney feels this is not a one-time event and you would have to comply with all standard FOI requirements. **L. Colangelo** asked what comply means. **MA. Chinatti** explained agendas needs to be posted, minutes need to be taken and all needs to be posted. Non-Putnam residents can be part of their "workgroup". Can existing volunteers continue to sit on workgroups, yes is the answer. All members do not need to be residents. **Chairman Moorehead** stated workgroups don't have to do minutes. **E. Turner** stated all they do is share information with no voting, or decision making. Sharing information to keep everyone updated and workgroup will be the same. Workgroups will gather information and bring it back to the committee for decisions. **MA. Chinatti** reiterated that agendas need to be posted prior to all meetings. **L. Colangelo** explained prior to now there were no separate groups, it was just one group, no decisions were made because they were not at that point. Consulting and a MOU will be need for decisions for property owners who will allow murals. Attorney Kate Cerrone is donating time with this. **L. Colangelo** explained how they will bring information to a formal meeting. All was discussed when it was first presented. **B. Johnston** suggested in this meeting also, to set up in advance weekly meetings for decision meetings. **L. Colangelo** asked if 2 years in advance they would be able to block off a time for meetings? **MA. Chinatti** added that the Town Hall must provide space and equipment for these meetings. **E. Turner** stated that Elaine Sistare said they were not a committee of this municipality. If they were they could set up meetings and jump thru hoops themselves. MuralFest committee members wouldn't vote on things the Council would vote on their behalf. We need to be conscious of having 3 or more people in a discussion. **B. Johnston** stated that at the level they are at, there will be much more work going into agendas. **L. Colangelo** stated that normal meetings are time consuming, and she was aware of the increased work. How are emails handled? **E. Turner** stated no responding, can't ask what people think, no voting, no opinions. **B. Johnston** added that if she sent emails BCC that people can't respond. **MA. Chinatti** stated that is not correct, noting that people could still respond, though not allowed to. **L. Colangelo** stated that it would be very likely E. Turner would respond. **MA. Chinatti** explained again that **E. Turner** would be MuralFest chair and responding that way. **L. Colangelo** feels that an Arts Council member responding as an Art Council member instead of a workgroup participant would be unlikely **MA. Chinatti** suggested attaching a list of all members and what committee they are in with the first agenda so the list will be in the Town Clerks Office on file. Sub workgroups interaction will also need agendas. **MA. Chinatti** continued to explain what would happen if there was an illegal meeting, this could lead to a fine. **MA. Chinatti** is going to find out if BCC is appropriate. The discussion of responding continued with numerous scenarios and what would be considered an "illegal meeting". **MA. Chinatti** stated that a nonprofit would not have to follow the FOI rules because they are private. **E. Turner** said that would require the money being transferred the money to the Art Guild acct.

Nonprofit would change the availability for town resources. **E. Turner** stated it is an event, its on the calendar and accepted by the selectman as an event. It's a four-day festival. **L. Colangelo** asked if the Art Guild was a 501c3 **B. Johnston** answered before they went down that route she would need to understand the impact of the MuralFest under the umbrella of the Art Guild and have a lawyer to explain. **B. Johnston** also recommended bringing Russ Blair to the next meeting in person or zoom. **MA. Chinatti** asked for the list of questions be given to her ahead of time to be presented to Russ Blair. **E. Turner** made a motion to accept MuralFest as an Art Council event. **(M/S/C Turner/Angeloni)**. **B. Johnston** asked that Russ coming in first before decision was made.

L. Colangelo said it's unlikely they would form a 501c3, they would have to dissolve it after the event. She must respectfully disagree with the attorney because there is an ending to this event. The options are limited unless they join a nonprofit. Most of the workload falls on the MuralFest work group to meet all the demands of all the meeting requirements. If this is the only option L Colangelo is willing to comply. Is a stand-alone social media website allowed that accepts donations? **MA. Chinatti** will ask the attorney. **Chairman Moorehead** asked if the motion should be put aside until the questions are answered. **MA. Chinatti** asked motion be withdrawn **E. Turner** withdrew motion to bring MuralFest on as an art council event. **C. Angeloni** also withdrew his second.

Chairman Moorehead called the discussion to end. She asked if there could be a list of FOI questions for the next meeting. **L Colangelo** will discuss with **E. Sistare** the donor acknowledgement letters. **L. Colangelo** read the letter to group and **MA. Chinatti** suggested the letter be brief and on the Town letterhead. Is it appropriate to just have **E. Sistare's** signature on the letter? **MA. Chinatti** suggested she be the second signature. There will be room for the MuralFest logo on the letter also.

7. Corridor Gallery:

Chairman Moorehead stated all artists have been contacted for 2027. **C. Angeloni** will be the first quarter artist. There are 2 applications already for 2028.

8. Correspondence:

Chairman Moorehead shared the resignation letter for Oliver Williamson who will be moving out of town. **(M/S/CTurner/Johnston)** Approved unanimously.

Resignation accepted. At next meeting members will discuss possibilities to fill the seat.

9. Public Participation:

L. Colangelo asked why MuralFest is on the art council budget. Will be investigated and presented at the next meeting along with Wild Hearts Tame Spirits.

10. Other Items:

Chairman Moorehead went to the grants and asked S Ramos if a group email was sent out to local business regarding grants and would like to send another.

B. Johnston asked about the approval of dates and could it be an agenda next month and getting on the Selectman's agenda

Chairman Moorehead suggested the Art Heist tentative date being March 13th. The Art Festival weekend of the 12 and 13 of June. **(M/S/C Johnston/Ionkin)** approved unanimously.

B. Johnston presented a data mailer and asked about adding a mailer for the Art Festival. Would this be a beneficial way of getting the word out? More information will be provided at the next meeting. Members were unsure how effective it would be, but a possibility would be welcomed. Also suggested magnetic signs for your vehicles and commercials. More information will be provided.

10. Adjournment* **(M/S/C Turner/ Johnstoni)** to adjourn at 6:58PM. Carried unanimously
Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ramos, Economic Development Coordinator
Vote Required*