Putnam Arts Council
Regular Meeting
Municipal Complex
200 School St. Putnam, CT 06260
Zoom Meeting
October 26, 2026
Minutes

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

Absent: None

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 5:31 PM
   It was determined a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

   (M/S/C Angeloni/Johnston) to approve the minutes of August 24, 2026, as presented. Carried unanimously.

3. Finances:
   I. Budget Report – The budget report was presented and reviewed without questions.

4. New Business:

   a. Sarah Blanchard, Joe Verrastro, Grabtown

Sarah Blanchard was given the floor and introduced herself to the Council to present her slideshow. Unfortunately, Joe Verrastro could not join the meeting as planned.

Sarah proceeded to give a brief explanation about herself, and how she came to write the mystery/thriller Grabtown along with an outline of the story. (Story handout included with minutes.) Sarah also explained how the book has evolved into a filming of the movie. Sarah also explained why she chose to make this movie an independent film. Reason being local control from Sarah and Joe. It was explained that they would like to have onset learning and education for film students. Put a spotlight on this area, Town of Putnam specially.

We are also looking to bank and investment of $450.000. Investor structure who signs on as full exec. producers they are looking at 120% payback it is an investment not a donation for the people willing to do so. Out of this comes 10% for charitable partners, the Arts and Domestic Violence. The Investors and Producers will then split the remaining profits. Nobody makes huge money. Small investors and independent cast and crew.

Joe has talked to investors which may be intern may lead to them asking for a leading role for up-and-coming actors, or a cinematographer because she wants the stage to showcase her talents. Joe determines if the person would be a good fit and where within this movie. These exchanges happen all the time.

Joe is currently working on another film due to come out around Thanksgiving, shot in Portland and Middletown.

Chairman Moorehead asked what Sarah saw as the part of the Arts Council?

Sarah replied assisting with marketing, and we would love to see 1 or 2 local investors.

Chairman Moorehead asked if she meant business investors or individual investors. Sarah replied either. If there is a good arts supporter interested in seeing this happen and would like to put in 10 thousand or 20 thousand there is the 20% return, it's not a donation its an investment.

Tier One

Companies who are willing to help like McGee Toyota who's finance manager is interested. Possibly providing vehicles instead of leasing, in return they will get product placement on set and credits at the end of the movie.

Tier Two

Dunkin Donuts donations for cast and crew. The Dunkin box would be front and center on the screen. Bradley Playhouse interested in rehearsal space, casting call space, props and clothing. Antique vintage autos. This can be provided at no cost it would be wonderful and includes prominent mentions. Interns that may want film exposure and experience. Discounts thru motels, Bed and Breakfasts. All will contribute to making the movie.

Tier Three

Kickstart Investors

Free tickets to the premier screening, VIP discussion with Directors, Hats, T-shirts, Swag. Red Carpet pictures at the premiere.

There are a lot of different ways for donations. Sarah stated she was unsure of the kinds of grants offered. MA Chinatti stated the Town has none and she wasn't sure if she had contacted the state and offered contact information to Sarah.

Chairman Moorehead asked if there was anything as a Town Representative that they needed to approve? MA Chinatti stated there is nothing to approve but maybe the Arts Council would consider contributing funds.

Chairman Moorehead suggested discussing this at the next Arts Council meeting allowing everyone the opportunity to look thru the information provided.

E. Turner asked, regarding the tiers of donations, we aren't in a position to donate $20,000.00 but maybe $1000.00. On the return in investment, Is there a cut off or a donation to be able to be an investor. Sarah replied there is no cutoff to be an investor. If you're talking about a personal

investor then yes, as an investor there is a contract, there would be a return on investment. An investment from the Arts Council, it would go thru the town and was unsure if it can be an investment with an expected return. The question will be presented to an attorney. Chairman Moorehead asked if local musicians would be considered? Sarah responded absolutely.

E. Turner stated the Arts Council would need to know more specifically what would be included in the fields of art. Sarah stated it has not been discussed yet.

B Johnston asked what the timeline would be on the 20% return. Sarah responded two years.

J. Reid asked if the owner of the barn that they burn down will be reimbursed. Sarah stated it depends on whether they want it burned down or not. There would be a contribution to the fire dept for a controlled burn. If the barn was in that bad of shape it wouldn't be worth much.

Sarah ended her presentation and passed around a sigh up sheet for the mailing list and was thanked by the Arts Council for attending the meeting.

b. Approval of Meeting Dates and Times for 2027

Chairman Moorehead stated the dates for 2027 looked good, along with the time remaining at 5:30pm. **(M/S/C Turner/ Johnston)** carried unanimously.

5. Old Business:

a. Muralfest

Chairman Moorehead gave the floor to L. Colangelo who was there to request the Putnam Arts Council for hosting the FOI. L. Colangelo didn't feel there was anything that would be a deal breaker or change over the coming months that would change the request, structure. Still waiting on some outstanding information from the attorney. Still hoping to provide online payments once the stand-alone website is up and running. E Turner reiterated that Russ mentioned a lot of the information from the FOI meeting in regard to Muralfest was up to the town, committees have to do minutes and post agendas, the workgroups do not.

L. Collangelo states that they are where they want to be. The Muralfest Putnam Committee will report to the Putnam Arts Council. Elaine Turner, Laura Crosetti and I will facilitate workgroups and report to the Arts Council and report back monthly. E. Turner stated they need a general allocation, so approval is not needed monthly.

Chairman Moorehead asked if the committee approval needs to be presented to the Board of Selectman. MA Chinatti stated no. Chairman Moorehead stated when the motion is made to adopt Muralfest as a committee does a list of the three people need to be provided. MA Chinatti suggested to make a motion to adopt the Muralfest under the umbrella of the Arts Council with the Muralfest Executive Committee consisting of E. Turner, L. Crosetti and L. Colangelo. E. Turner stated that any one of us would be reporting, MA Chinatti confirmed. E. Turner stated at a Muralfest Committee Meeting you do not discuss Arts Council and at Arts Council you don't discuss Muralfest.

B. Johnston stated she didn't get the answers to all the questions she submitted. MA Chinatti stated she would ask Russ where he is with answering the questions.

L. Colengalo stated they will put some standard operating procedures in place to clarify minor details.

B Johnston make a motion to allow Muralfest Putnam to organize under the umbrella of the Putnam Arts Council with direct reporting from the Muralfest executive committee consisting of Elaine Turner, Laura Crosetti and Linda Colengalo effective October 26, 2026 **(M/S/C Johnston/Reid)** Carried unanimously.

b. Art Festival

I. Dates Approved

Chairman Moorehead asked if the dates were approved by the town. MA Chinatti stated not at this time. Chairman Moorehead asked that they are on the next agenda with the dates of June 12 and 13, 2027. J. Reid asked if there were any discussions about moving the Art Festival to the fall. Chairman Moorehead stated there was as previous discussion, the issues being there are a lot of other festivals in the fall. E. Turner stated it may be something to look into the following year of Muralfest. 2028.

c. Approval of cost of CaFE

B. Johnston stated how it works to get a cost. She is still getting the information together for the subscription. Chairman Moorehead stated the cost last year was $144.00. B. Johnston stated the cost should be bumped up. Motion made not to exceed $600.00. for the 2027 Putnam Art Festival

(M/S/C Johnston/Angeloni) Carried unanimously

d. Art Heist Dates:

Chairman Moorehead stated she assumed the Art Heist dates were also on the meeting for the Board of Selectman. MA Chinatti confirmed yes. Chairman Moorehead stated the date requested was March 13, 2026.

e. Opening reception gallery

Chairman Moorehead stated there is an opening reception for the current artist in the gallery in the Library on November 5th from 5:30 – 7:30.

6. Correspondence:

Chairman Moorehead asked everyone take a copy of the letter/form for sponsorship and would like to get it approved for the next meeting.

7. Public Participation: L. Colengalo asked a final Muralfest question regarding who the second signature on checks minus Elaine would be. It would be Laura Moorehead Arts Council and Elaine Turner Coordinator and Sponsorship Chair.

8. Adjournment*

(M/S/C Turner/Reid) Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm. Carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ramos
Economic Development Coordinator.