

Natick Cultural Council  
Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2026, 6:30pm  
By Zoom

In attendance:

Natick Cultural Council Members: Miriam Achenbach, Ann Eggleston, Charlene Foss, Ava Kleinmann, Karen Mallozzi, Livia Mosanu

Treasurer's Report: Ann Eggleston gave the treasurer's report in Betsy Rigby's absence. For the last granting year (2025), we had reimbursed grants for all grantees except one extension granted for Tal Shalom-Kobii, \$400, for her program to happen in the first quarter of 2026, and two grantees were not able to complete their programs, grants dispersed are \$16,298.95. We will start submitting for the 2026 grants which will total \$18,168.00. Betsy and Ann completed a webinar on filling out grant reimbursement forms for grantees on January 21, 2026 by Zoom and a copy of the recording and transcript was shared with all grantees.

Grantees Reception Planning:

Karen will check with the Morse Institute Library on 4 dates in March: 4, 11, 16, 25, to see if any are available for the room. We were looking at nights other than Tuesday or Thursday, March 2 or 18 due to council member conflicts. She will also request tech help and a dongle, as well as help with the sound which didn't work last year from the computer, though the mics did work.

Council discussed food options and we will continue with the light snacks of the past and maybe some custom cookies to for grantees to take with them. Livia will provide previous receipts to the person ordering the food once the date is set. Ann will take an inventory of plates, utensils, cups, napkins, decorations to see if any more need to be purchased.

Council discussed getting a second banner per the debrief after the reception last year. Livia ordered the last banner and will review the Vistaprint site and send some possible options for members to review including: flag banners, table top signage, other banner sizes.

We discussed photography because that has been an issue. Ava will reach out to NHS student Faisal Betti who took photos at graduation and word of mouth let that be know to families. She spoke of the quality and will talk to him about paying him. If not, Karen and Miriam said they can bring their computers.

Once we have the date, we will send out to grantees with form to sign up to showcase their grant. Ann will play around with description to encourage grantees who haven't previously presented. We will send an invitation by evite to all grantees, council, past grantees and council, Rep Linsky, Sen Spilka, MCC program officer and leaders, Select Board, and others that often host programs of our grantees (libraries, senior/community center, etc.). A

broad list also brings visibility to our work and may encourage past grantees and others to apply in the future. Additionally, it will be on our social media, sent to Natick Town Pages, and other news orgs. We will ask grantees to like and share our social posts with their audiences to encourage attendance. Additionally, we discussed calling it a “Grantees Showcase” vs. reception so that it signals all are welcomed and grantees can invite other supporters of theirs, too, to see their work. Ann will ask Lisa about doing the program again as she did last year.

Ann will send out a doodle poll to meet again before the reception to make sure all planning is on track for the March reception.

#### Outreach and Visibility:

Council members discussed the goal of being visible at town events/gatherings like: Farmers Market, Natick Days, Natick Nights, NYE on the CRT, etc. The primary reasons are: visibility of work to attract new council members, attract new grantees, highlight the work of current grantees. It was agreed that it’s a good concept and at next meeting will talk about more specifics and how we can find dates that most members can attend and help table at those events. Miriam also suggested the ideas of an NCC business card that all members can have and give to artists or others to help inform them of our work and the LCC grant program.

#### Additional topics:

Members discussed start a conversation in April after the grantee reception, and perhaps an in-person meeting, to discuss the council’s grantmaking strategy. Previously the council has tried to “spread the wealth” by giving some money to all applicants who meet the MCC and our guidelines, but the council discussed possibly changing that to give to fewer grantees but giving larger awards to meet their request. We will also talk about ideas to encourage new grantees and larger awards by having grantees take a year off after receiving a grant for a number of years in a row (2, 3, 5 – TBD, no deep discussion or decisions made, just concepts to discuss at a future meeting).

Members Miriam and Charlene brought an idea of an onboarding document/information for new members to help explain how things work and council members roles. A document will be started in the NCC google drive and all members are asked to review and add their comments to help future council members when they join.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Submitted by Ann Eggleston, Chair of Natick Cultural Council