

## May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 5:34 PM

Present: Flo, Jamie, Breese, Lauren, Anne, David, Ariane (left at 6:15 PM), Aiden (arrived at 5:40 PM)

Excused: Syed

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### *3.a: Approval of April meeting minutes*

Motion by Breese, seconded by Anne to approve the April 13, 2026 meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

### 4: Current Events

There were no current events discussed this month.

### 5: Discussion Items

#### *5.a: Pride Proclamation*

Motion by Anne, seconded by Breese, to recommend that the Pride Month proclamation be read by the Mayor at the June 2 City Council meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

#### *5.b: Pride Flag Raising Updates*

The Progress Pride flag raising ceremony will take place on June 1 at 3 PM at the flagpole at City Hall.

Danica has the flag in her office to bring to the event. AV equipment has been arranged and we have received confirmation of attendance from the Tiger Allies. Doris Ortiz, former Councilor-at-Large and local member of the LGBTQ+ community, will be

speaking. The Tiger Allies have been asked if there is anyone else they would like to participate.

Heart of Biddeford is going to include the flag raising ceremony on their calendar of events. David asked if there is a family-friendly place to put up a physical poster. Anne suggested the library. Other suggestions include Time and Tide, Offhand, BiddoBahn, and the bulletin boards in the Mills. Danica can make a poster in Canva.

Flo asked if Councilors have been invited in the past. Lauren offered to send an email to Contact all Councilors the week before the event to invite them. David offered to mention this at the next Council meeting during the Council updates.

Mayor LaFountain promptly responded to an email sent during the meeting and confirmed his attendance at the event.

#### *5.c. Juneteenth Proclamation*

Motion by Anne, seconded by Jamie, to recommend that the Juneteenth Proclamation be read by the Mayor at the June 16 meeting.

Vote: Unanimous.

#### *5.d. Juneteenth Updates & Volunteer Signups*

Juneteenth Committee is now meeting on the first and the third Monday at 11 AM. The next meeting will be on May 18. There has been a site visit of Rotary Park, Go See Tyce is committed to doing food, and an EventBrite invitation has been distributed. Committee members are asked to register on EvenetBrite so that there can be an appropriate headcount for food.

Shay Stewart Boulay (“Black Girl in Maine”) will be the guest speaker at the event and will receive an honorarium. Shay will also be presented with an award at the event, and the Committee has been asked to choose the name for the award. The idea is that this award will be tied to the Juneteenth event moving forward.

Flo shared a proposed list of names for the award. Flo suggested we come up with our top three choices and it can be presented at the May 18 Juneteenth Planning meeting for final selection. The committee’s three recommendations were:

- Juneteenth Freedom Award
- Maine Voices of Change Award

- Juneteenth Trailblazer Award

Breese shared that Apex Youth Connection is in to provide a “kid’s corner”. He is encouraging BIPOC vendors to apply for free table space.

Flo shared that there are different levels of ticket cost on EventBrite depending on what people feel comfortable paying. There are also free tickets available as we do not want cost to be a barrier.

Leinani from Heart of Biddeford has reported that HOB will be putting up QR codes to the ticket page at ArtWalk on Friday.

Danica can include the event information in June’s Biddeford Beat.

Flo shared volunteer shifts and information about what the commitment entails, including decorations, load in and load out, etc. Committee members signed up for the following shifts:

**2 PM – 4 PM**

- Anne

**4 PM – 6 PM**

- Lauren
- Jamie

*5.e. Public Restroom Survey Update*

The Committee reviewed the previous three-question survey and recapped how it had previously been shared at River Jam. The original through process behind the survey was that we should keep it short so that people would be willing to do it during an event.

Flo shared that she has asked Jake Hammer from General Assistance and Leah Schaffer from the Citizens’ Advisory Committee for input on a revised survey. Combining our efforts with the work of the CAC and GA office can substantiate the cost associated with this kind of project. She noted that there is nothing on the current survey that captures the struggles of local businesses.

The Committee determined that the survey should be revisited next month once feedback has been received from Jake and Leah.

#### *5.f. Committee Swag*

Anne has ordered iron-on decals that can be attached to cotton or polyester clothing, and she is willing to order more in any size between 2-4 inches. Committee members will have to provide clothing items at their own cost.

Lauren offered to pick up t shirts at Costco this weekend. Committee members shared their sizes with Lauren. Shirts will be assembled by the group at a future date.

#### **6. Other Business**

David thanked Lauren for showing up for the recent free pet care and vaccination clinic at the library. There were 10-12 animals that were treated during the event.

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition put a statement out today confirming a rise in detentions over the last two weeks. It was suggested to follow Better Biddeford on social media for community-specific immigration enforcement information and response.

#### **7. Second Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.