

**Biddeford Public Art Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2026**

In attendance:

- Jessica Muise, Chair
- Commission: Braden Drypolcher and Beth Whitney
- Staff Liaison: Erika Dube, Deputy Recreation Director
- Council Liaison: Councilor Abigail Woods
- Guests:
 - Jamie Lee Harron, Biddeford DEI Committee
 - Lawrence Best, Biddeford Fire Chief
 - Brad Favreau, Biddeford Development and Sustainability Coordinator
 - Larry Weyand, Art of Biddeford Program Director
- Absences: Coco Corral, Rebecca Cote, and Kim Largey
- *One Commission Vacancy: Student Liaison*

1. Meeting Called to Order: 5:04PM

2. Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to Approve: Braden Drypolcher
- Seconded: Beth Whitney
- Discussion: none
- Vote: Unanimously approved

Discussion Items

3.a Letter to other city commissions and committees

• **Biddeford Fire Advisory Committee Chief Lawrence Best:** Chief Best explained that this committee is a sub-committee of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (comprised of both PD and FD representatives). Chief Best spoke on the need for a city museum; the current Fire Station houses a small but robust museum of historical fire dept memorabilia, such as a truck from the 1930's. If these could be displayed in a collective museum, this would protect these items, make them more accessible to the public, and free up space for operations. The commission confirmed this aligns with the heritage component of the BPAC mission, and other discussions about finding space to display history, such as with St. Louis Alumni, LaKermesse and the BCHC. The commission brainstormed future events such as a city-wide "Museum Crawl" in connection with an Art Walk night to view items where they are currently preserved, or using an app to digitize inventory or create 3D

imprints to display virtual rooms to create awareness and for people to interact with the artifacts. Another potential collaborative project discussed was around public safety and communication, i.e. connecting with artists to help create flyers and informational materials to develop safety messaging for the public.

• **Responses from other commissions**

Received responses from the Conservation Commission, Traffic Committee, and Biddeford Citizens' Advisory Committee about attending a future meeting.

DEI Committee: discussed collaboration options such as a mural project illustrating representation in Biddeford history, rainbow crosswalk and wayfinding, etc.

Sustainability Commission: Jess Muise met with Art of Biddeford, Heart of Biddeford, USM and UNE students, and members of the Biddeford Sustainability Commission to discuss promotional opportunities and support needs (installation/volunteers) for the upcoming "Sensing the Coast" exhibit opening and reception July 10th from 5:00-8:00pm at Building 13, Pepperell Mill Campus. Exhibit focuses on climate change in Biddeford.

[Sensing the Coast - Art of Biddeford](#)

Brad Favreau also shared that there are other ways the BPAC could support the Sustainability Commission and Historic Preservation Committee. For example, when developing the Climate Change Action Plan, art was used for education and public engagement. It would be beneficial to consider how art can support sustainability projects and planning/development.

General ways BPAC can support other commissions:

- If there are events being held or educational campaigns being developed, artists could design flyers, promotional and educational materials, etc.
- Host an event/meeting with other commissions in attendance to set collaborative goals for the upcoming year.

3.b Commission Goals 2025-2026:

Master Plan: the draft has been sent to Council President Beaupre for consideration of adding to Policy Committee agenda on June 22nd (update post-meeting: this meeting was postponed and Policy Committee meetings will resume later this summer, TBD).

Commission Member Status: Erika Dube confirmed that the city has not received any student applications for the current vacancy. The commission discussed promoting the open seat during summer events such as the upcoming ArtWalk, flyers at City Hall, and connecting with youth organizations such as APC and Apex.

Commission Logo: discussion tabled for July meeting

Commission Budget FY26

Discussion of potential fund use:

- Event Kit: have kit ready to go for events to include BPAC promotional print materials, activity items such as sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Wheat Paste Mural project materials to promote the Five Points Sign Project.

Discussed whether the commission felt ready to spend the FY26 funds on current projects in development or if the commission would request a carryover of funds to FY27. Vote:

- Motion to request a Carry Over of FY26 Funds to FY27 at the July 7th Council Meeting: Beth Whitney
- Braden Drypolcher proposed an amendment to the motion to include that funds will be designated towards the DDC Five Points Sign Project and wheat paste mural installation that will promote the Five Points project.
- Amended Motion Seconded: Beth Whitney
- Discussion: none
- Vote: Unanimously approved

3.c Five Points Sign Project with Downtown Development Commission: members of the DDC will be attending the June 25th meeting with the Art of Biddeford Advisory Board to discuss ways to partner and promote this project. Discussed 501©3 fundraising options. Current Five Points Sign project budget is \$36,000.

3.d City Hall Gallery: the summer exhibit will be opening in conjunction with the June 19th Art Walk with City Hall being open from 5-7PM. Commission members attending this Art Walk include Jess Muise, Abigail Woods, and Beth Whitney. Jess will share a sign-up email to commission members for the remaining Art Walks through October.

3.e Review of projects list

5. Other Business:

Discussed the soft launch of a survey at City Hall to increase public art engagement.

Councilor Woods shared that she would provide a BPAC update at the June 16th council meeting to include the following: June Art Walk/City Hall gallery exhibit opening, cross-committee collaboration with DEI, DDC, and Fire Advisory Committee, and current commission vacancies.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 5:00PM. Location: Room 2, J. Richard Martin Community Center – 189 Alfred Street

Meeting Adjourned: 6:34PM

- Motion to Adjourn: Beth Whitney
- Seconded: Councilor Woods
- Vote: Unanimously approved