

Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2020 – Remote Meeting – 6:30-7:30 pm

REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING

Conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen.L.c.30A &20, et seq., and 940 CMR29.01, et seq.

In response to Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Human Rights Commission shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Go to Meeting will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Human Rights Commission website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Human Rights Commission meetings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the Human Rights Commission website. . We extend our thanks for your understanding in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Commission safe.

Chairman Kevin Merritt called meeting to order, stating the declarations above and asking all members to identify themselves and their home address.

Online for the meeting were:

Kevin Merritt
Pat Kilty
Sheila Ryder
Donna Gaffey
Erin Bradley, MD
Jane Francis
Select Person Raymie Parker

Motion to start the meeting was made by, Pat Kilty. Second by Jane Francis
After roll call vote meeting began at 6:35 pm

First order of business was approval of meeting minutes for November 19.2020, motion made to approve as amended by Erin Bradley, second by Jane Francis. Roll call vote was held and minutes approved as amended.

Second order of business was to review for final approval the Critical Incident Response Plan. The plan has been approved both by Town Counsel Attorney Robert Galvin and the Select Board.
Motion to approve was made by Pat Kilty, second by Jane Francis. Roll call vote – motion is passed to approve Critical Incident Response Plan.

Discussion was started regarding HRC outreach and strategic planning:

- Kevin Merritt was unsuccessful with contacting Town Planner who is out for extended period. Kevin will reach out to the Town Clerk, Maria Sagarino to see if she can provide additional resources and/or information on Town demographics.
- Resources for self-study, Erin Bradley will work coordinating/ compiling a book lists. She is also keeping an eye out for any trainings that may be available for implicit bias, having recently attended one at MGH.
- Donna Gaffey mentioned podcasts, they had been brought up before, easier to listen at time than to read.
- Pat Kilty revisited the exercise brought forward previously discussed in Implicit Bias.

Discussion will be revisited next month when more members are present.

Next order of business concerned planning for 2021. On January 14th, Quabbin Mediation will be conducting Bystander/Upstander training. Also, the Martin Luther King Day celebration this year will be virtual, Raymie Parker will be reading and she will also deliver a short statement regarding the formation of the HRC. Rob Bardell will also be reading. A suggestion was made that our Vision Statement might appear as a rolling item on screen. Erin Bradley suggested that possibly something such as a meme from Bystander training might also appear. Erin has offered to coordinate a statement for the recording.

Future planning discussion, immediate focus is Quabbin Training, making HRC presence and mission known utilizing Martin Luther King Day, Discussion regarding planning an event for further during year took place, anticipated return to gatherings will most likely be in the Fall, Pat Kilty suggested Town Day, Erin Bradley mentioned she really had hoped for a more academic event, such as sitting down with other groups, a roundtable as to finding out what are the community's needs. Donna Gaffey mentioned how about something for LGBTQ Pride month, Raymie and Erin added that partnering with the group at the High School for that event would be good idea. Further discussion to occur when more membership is present at another meeting.

Jane Francis told the group about reading the Stoneham Reads book selection: **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You**. She got her copy at the Book Oasis. A suggestion was made to also consider the young adult version of the book.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28th, 2021 to insure we will be able to recap what we learned from the Bystander-Upstander training we will be having with Quabbin Mediation on January 14th.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Pat Kilty, seconded by Erin Bradley, roll call vote was held and meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.