

# Human Rights Commission

July 25<sup>th</sup> – Town Hall Conference Room – 6:30- 7:30 pm

Chairman Merritt called meeting to order at 6:30.

In attendance at the meeting were:

Lindsay Beal  
Pat Kilty  
Sheila Ryder  
Julie Beliveau  
Cailin Kennedy  
Robert Bardell  
Dennis Sheehan  
Kevin Merritt  
Donna Gaffey

STONEHAM  
TOWN CLERK  
REGISTRARS  
2019 AUG 23 A 9:06

First order of business was to accept June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes. Pat Kilty moved to accept, Sheila Ryder seconded.

Chairman Merritt called to amend minutes for name correction for Cailin Kennedy, then moved to accept corrected copy.

An update from HRC members who had attended the Senator Lewis round table meeting.

Stoneham Human Rights Commission members in attendance at the round table of 7-24-19:  
Lindsay Beal, Kevin Merritt, Sheila Ryder, Donna Gaffey, Patricia Kilty, Julie Beliveau.

Many local groups were additionally represented at the round table among them:

Wakefield Human Rights Commission

Wakefield Embraces Diversity

Winchester Multicultural Network

Human Rights and Fair Housing Malden

Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition/Asian Community Development Corporation/South Cove Community Health

Malden Community Organizing for Racial Equality

Reading Human Relations Advisory Committee

Introductions were made by individuals representing various groups from surrounding communities. Each member of these groups was given an opportunity to explain development of the group as well as accomplishments and challenges their group has had. HRC members share their take away of the meeting.

Senator Lewis spoke about the life cycle of a bill and some of the bills currently in this cycle:

- Bill S247/H443 to prohibit the use of Native American mascots by public schools.
- Bill H3665 to establish Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Bill H2776/S1877 to create a commission to look into changing our state seal and flag.

Follow-up emails from Senator Lewis office shared our names and emails addresses so we could continue contact and encouraged us to reach out to his office for information and assistance.

Cailin Kennedy discussed outreach to youth (both at high school and visiting other schools)

Discussion amongst the group on mission, how we can accomplish it. Thoughts on starting a short list of Stoneham representative who could speak to any issues here in Stoneham. Lindsay and Sandy spoke of advocacy and education. Robert suggested while acquiring info regarding other groups, sticking to making HRC uniquely Stoneham. Discussion continued with how to introduce to the group to public and encouraging discussion regarding issues.

As the meeting drew to a close, members were encouraged to do homework on speakers & issues to bring to next meeting. Discussed length of meeting when a guest was present, increasing to one and half hours to allow both speaker and new business to be attended to.

At approximately 7:45 Chair moved to adjourn.