

# Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2019 – Conference Room- Town Hall – 6:30- 8:00 pm

Chairman Kevin Merritt called meeting to order at 6:30.

In attendance at the meeting were:

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

2019 DEC - 2 P 2: 20  
STONEHAM  
TOWN CLERK  
REGISTRARS

Guest speaker: Kayla Vodka, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Director and member of the Stoneham Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Community.

First order of business was to review the minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, an amended version was needed. Pat Kilty moved to accept, Lindsay Beal seconded the motion.

Kevin Merritt introduced Kayla Vodka, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Director with the Town of Stoneham and a member of the Stoneham Coalition for a Safety and Healthy Community. Members of the HRC then introduced themselves. Kayla shared with the group how the Coalition was founded, how the Town received the Communities Grant and was able to fund both her position and the part time position of Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator held by Megan Samborski. The mission of the Coalition is focusing on social and environmental factors (science based prevention) encouraging healthier alternatives. The Prevention program is working on initiatives around vaping and Dab pens, funding from the grant also enabled Narcan to be supplied through the Board of Health, Kayla shared reports from survey conducted at the High School level indicating alcohol use is highly prevalent and limiting alcohol at events is being proactive to encourage socializing without alcohol. Identifying resources as well as implementing programs to reduce drug and alcohol abuse is the objective of the Coalition.

Discussion continued around the Contact list and continuing to both revise and expand.

The Critical Incident Response policy was discussed and Chair Kevin Merritt will be working on a draft so we can begin the work to have something in place.

Lindsay Beal introduced a discussion on the subject of Environmental Justice, a request from the South School site assessment committee seeking the HRC's support in Environmental Justice education and awareness. Lindsay explained to the group how environmental justice affects underserved populations, providing insight as to how it relates to the school project. The South School site assessment committee would appreciate HRC's support.

The MLK Jr. Celebration committee reached out to request the HRC to assist in sponsoring their 2020 Celebration event along with the Library and Boy Scout Troop #513. A vote to participate was moved forward.

Pat Kilty moved to accept to participate.

Cailin Kennedy seconded.

Next meeting on November 21st at 6:30 in the Conference Room will have two guest speakers:

Linda Leis, Domestic Violence Liason

Kathy Conary of SAAV, Stoneham Alliance against Violence

Motion to adjourn Pat Kilty, Lindsay Beal seconded.

At approximately 7:40 Chair moved to adjourn.