

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2020 – Remote Meeting – 6:30- 7:45 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 at 6:30. Stating the declarations above and asking all members to identify themselves and their home address.

Online for the meeting were:

Kevin Merritt

Lindsay Beal

Pat Kilty

Sheila Ryder

Donna Gaffey

Jane Francis

Select Person Raymie Parker

After roll call a motion was passed with all members in agreement and the meeting began.

First order of business was to approve meeting minutes from February 20, 2020. Roll Call was held and the motion was passed to approve the minutes.

An open discussion on how members were dealing with the COVID-19 crisis was started. Members shared how they were responding to the crisis.

Sheila Ryder shared she wanted to know what she could do and had reached out to SAAV, to see if there was a need.

Pat Kilty shared how she had been getting outside and walking to relieve stress and expressed her thoughts that Face Coverings should be mandatory.

Lindsay Beal spoke on how different municipalities and organizations were addressing the crisis.

Jane Francis spoke of coffee and conversations through ZOOM, Aerobics classes being held on ZOOM, She also spoke of actions being taken at the library, various members at the library contributing with recipes, online tutorials for apps available and even temporary library cards. Jane also brought up that the First Congregational Church had instituted a safe drop off for food donations and will bring a cart out to your car, to keep the process safe for all.

Kevin Merritt shared he is being kept busy with his law practice, but did send share a letter to neighbors to see if there was anything that they could do for each other.

Raymie Parker shared information regarding the Command Center at the Senior Center. Emergency bags are being prepared for seniors, food orders are being fulfilled and delivered to seniors. From this crisis it will show what is needed and larger conversations will be happening. Our group will be needed.

Jane Francis mentioned listing all the services and Donna Gaffey, a Wakefield resident described a note that was put into the masks that were distributed. Discussion began on how we could get information out

A prior list of local services that was compiled and presented to the group was revisited as a way of connecting people with services. Raymie mentioned that a letter would also aid introducing our group. Lindsey and Sheila will be collaborating on adding and revising the list for the HRC page on the Town's website.

New business brought about mention that swastikas had appeared in the community, this had been posted on Facebook. Lindsay said she would see if she could find the post and see if other members of community had. Raymie also would be looking into.

Next meeting was scheduled for May 28, 2020.

Motion was made to adjourn by Pat Kilty, second by Lindsay Beal, roll call vote was held and meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm