

# Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

**June 11, 2020 – Remote Meeting – 6:30-8:15 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

Rob Bardell

Lindsay Beal

Pat Kilty

Sheila Ryder

Donna Gaffey

Jane Francis

Select Person Raymie Parker

Several members of the Stoneham Community also joined the call, Ariel Maloney, Matt Rodriguez, Kelsey Montgomery, Corey Mashburn, Jessica Killilea, Anthony Wilson, Laura Capello, Tim Barton, Deborah Delman, Kedron Bryant, Catherine Moore and many other listeners.

After roll call a motion was passed with all members in agreement and identified, the meeting began at 6:30 pm. Chairman stated a document had been added to the final agenda- HRC mission statement.

This meeting was called to continue last week's discussions regarding the nationwide racial-justice issue and potential actions that could be taken within the town. Several members of the community were in attendance.

Lindsay Beal and Sheila Ryder raised the subject of our resource list.

Debora Delman spoke up that the Stoneham Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Stoneham group led by Kayla Vodka was working on some ideas for a resource booklet.

A sign parade initiative was raised by Select Chair Raymie Parker.

Lindsay B. spoke to the Neighborhood action plan and adding some racial justice initiatives to the plan.

Sheila and Lindsay have spoken with Ariel Maloney in regards to the event she is sponsoring, A Community Vigil for Black Live planned for Saturday, June 13th on the Common. Chairman spoke to the event stating it is a resident led event.

Catherine Moore asked why the town was no promoting any events. Again Chairman stated it would be events sponsored by people and not the town. Pat Kilty mentioned that Melrose and Reading events were driven and led by private citizens.

Sarah spoke up that the Town needs to take it a step further, community leaders need to be doing a lot more.

Laura Capello a resident spoke on starting a petition to have a mural on a building in the downtown area and shared the link with the group. Laura petition through Change.org, she was looking to involve more people in Stoneham, get some type of movement going. This is not happening in the town now.

Chairman Merritt mentioned HRC's press release which did not get published in the Independent as hoped for Wednesday, June 11, 2020. Next step was to get it placed on our website.

Rob Bardell, spoke to the Police Chief & Town Administrator, HRC and Select Board were willing to engage. Rob stated "can't work on Melrose or Reading, but I can work on my town to make a difference. It is about treating people how you want to be treated. Need to keep the actions going. Love hearing from people, love the meeting format and having more folks on."

Sheila Ryder spoke to HRC's mission and that our mandate is to bring the voice of the citizens to our leaders. Thankful for the voices, hopefully this will not end with Saturday's event.

Raymie Parker stated not in official capacity, why the town can't be involved – security and liability. Raymie also encouraged "keep the emails coming" looking for positive momentum, positive so change will last.

Anthony Wilson advised communication, people have much more power than they think, give feedback, organize people, and contact Select Board.

Discussion was started about sending a representative from HRC to a Select Board meeting.

Pat Kilty began conversation about "Stoneham Stands" granddaughters wanted to put something together, a grass root movement and started making signs. Shelly Kilty (granddaughter will be selling signs at the event on Saturday.

At the end of the meeting the HRC members discussed the Resources Listing that had been put together and how to get it out to the public.

Next meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2020.

Motion was made to adjourn by Jane Francis, second by Rob Bardell, roll call vote was held and meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm