

# **Human Rights Commission Amended Meeting Minutes**

**November 19, 2020 – Remote Meeting – 6:30-7:50 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

*Lindsay Beal*

Pat Kilty

Sheila Ryder

Donna Gaffey

Erin Bradley, MD

Emma Kilbride

Jane Francis

Rob Bardell

Select Person Raymie Parker

Residents: Deborah Delman, Martha Oesch

Motion to start the meeting was made by Jane Francis, second by Pat Kilty.

After roll call vote meeting began at 6:35 pm

First order of business was approval of meeting minutes for October 22, 2020, motion made to approve as amended by Jane Francis, second by Sheila Ryder. Roll call vote was held and minutes approved as amended.

Discussion was started regarding HRC outreach and strategic planning:

- Announcement that funding has been obtained for Bystander/up stander training with Quabbin Mediation to take place on January 14, from 6:00 -8:30 pm.Explanation how many seats will remain after filled by HRC members.
- Research into Vision Inc, found it to be great training, but geared to corporate and very high priced.
- Stoneham PD awaiting further inquiry
- Sheila Ryder reported back on Town of Lexington HRC, they are providing great information on various TED talks, books and movies.
- Erin Bradley still working to find out more resources or leads through MGH.
- Suggestion was made for an antiracism Book Club.

- Rob Bardell offered that gaining resources and information is a journey not a destination
- Lindsay Beal had mentioned she would love to hear about HRC members backgrounds and certification “elevator pitch”
- Raymie Parker spoke of the resources available through Harmony Foundation in Newton and through Newton Library.
- Jane Francis, who is our representative for the seniors and also a Library Trustee, informed us that the library board approved \$500.00 to help promote the **Stoneham Reads** program with book groups and speakers. **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You** is the chosen book.
- The library is also starting a program for homebound seniors in conjunction with The Senior Center. The Center's van driver will be delivering books every two weeks for patrons who request items from the library.
- Discussion turned to website and book list and Kevin Merritt stated as a commission we can offer resources but cannot offer recommendations.
- Town Housing Demographics and zoning reform were also mentioned.

Resident Deborah Delman suggested setting a date of possibly a year out and get schools involved in data gathering. Draft what appears on the town website, get data pulled together and update the website.

Raymie Parker made the suggestion that we try utilizing a matrix- get low hanging fruit. Rob Bardell added we could look at future, see where the town needs to go, comparing tracks, and may need to change in 5 years or 10 years. View inequities where things are and what needs to change.

Sheila Ryder mentioned she would like to start a book club with Erin Bradley. Continuing self-education by utilizing implicit bias tool the link was shared with us by Carlyene Prince Erickson; <https://asi.diplummer.com>.

Kevin Merritt suggested circulating a starter document with resources referring people to other resources and lists.

Erin Bradley suggested podcasts, books.

Rob Bardell offered collect information and bring it forward, (Erin's article) if people come forward we can direct to the right resource.

In New business reaching out to other HRC groups was addressed. Rob Bardell has been speaking to coworker who is on the Wakefield HRC (Wakefield has several new members) and they are trying to orient and find there “purpose “again.

Pat Kilty offered “12 People talking is a beginning”. Conversations are beginning which is crucial. It all begins at home.

Next meeting scheduled for December 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm,

Motion to end the meeting made by Jane Francis, second by Pat Kilty, roll call vote held.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:40