

Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes

**February 4, 2021 – Remote Meeting – 6:30-7:40 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  
Pat Kilty  
Donna Gaffey  
Erin Bradley, MD  
Jane Francis  
Emma Kilbride  
Lindsay Beal  
Select Person Raymie Parker

Joined also by Martha Oesch and Debra Delman,

Motion to start the meeting was made by, Jane Francis. Second by Donna Gaffey.  
After roll call vote meeting began at 6:33 pm

First order of business was approval of meeting minutes for December 17,2020 motion made to approve as amended by Jane Francis, second by Pat Kilty. Roll call vote was held and minutes approved as amended.

Discussion was started regarding member's thoughts and takeaways of bystander/up stander training which HRC participated in with Quabbin mediation online on January 14, 2021

- Pat Kilty felt that the scenarios that were presented in the training had no wrong answers.
- Jane Francis commented that she felt the training was well run.
- Emma Kilbride thought the training was wonderful and agreed with Pat's comment that were no wrong answers, thinks the situations or scenarios can be viewed in different ways.
- Erin Bradley stated she wished that there had been a handout regarding the Concepts that were presented or some sort of summary.
- Jane Francis mentioned the HRC should share something on our website regarding participating in the training.

- Kevin Merritt mentioned that training presented to him that doing something is easier than you think it is, you have the ability to change the tenor of an incident. Training showed ways of helping that are accessible and provoked thoughts on how to go about it.
- Erin Bradley suggested that the HRC written statement on training be published in the Independent, as a means of presenting HRC advocating to be allies.
- Jane Francis volunteered to write the piece and Lindsay Beal offered to help with editing.

Next order of business concerned planning for the rest of 2021. Working on a plan of members to take ownership of a topic discussion for future monthly meetings, many suggestions are dependent on the pandemic and where we are as far as public gathering.

June Pride month outdoor gathering

Joint meetings with Stoneham Social Justice with Ben Jacques

Promoting a social media presence

Jane Francis spoke of DA Ryan's program Safety for seniors, placing on our website.

Emma would like to do outreach with teens, reaching out to Superintendent John Macero.

Reminder that subcommittee, possibly two people would be okay, but need to avoid side conversations to avoid violating open meeting law. Kevin stated send all suggestions for topics to him and he will funnel back to group.

Discussion and review of the draft of the HRC annual report that Kevin has prepared, was next.

Kevin asked that the group reach out if they had additions to report.

In next topic of new business Kevin informed group of conversation he had with Martha Oesch of Stoneham Reads, possibility of HRC partnering to get the information on the program out in community. Martha was on the meeting and spoke of facilitated book discussion, Stoneham Reads is looking to hold virtual book discussions. The group will also be looking to train facilitators, an identified trainer would need to participate in training to build facilitation skills, helping to build capacity through cross promotion. Need to be thinking how to bring information back to your organization, how do you plan to take it back to the community. Interested members should reach out to Martha or connect with Lindsay Beal.

Kevin promised to circulate the Stoneham Reads flyer and offers reminder that February is Black History Month.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021.

Pat Kilty makes motion to adjourn meeting, the motion is seconded by Lindsay Beal. A roll call vote was held and meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm