

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
Town of Chelmsford, MA  
February 2, 2022

Members in attendance :

Latosha Dixon, Chair, Carly Reim, Co-chair, Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,  
Lauren Cochran, Rachel Donovan, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore, Joseph Mason

Absent: Brian Petro-Roy

Also attending: Maria Palacio, Laura Judge- Chelmsford Public Library

**Call to Order** 7:02 pm.

This meeting is being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. It is recorded.

**Approval of minutes of January 5, 2022, meeting**

C. Reim made a motion to approve the 1-5-22 minutes. L. Cochran seconded. Motion carried.

**Working Group Updates**

**Black History Month** – C. Lattimore, S. Mackinnon, and C. Reim are in this group.

Social media – featuring prominent Black Americans, a different person each day.

Watch It Wednesdays

-February 16, 2022, 6:30 pm. *Thirteenth*, moderated by Brian Petro-Roy

-February 23, 2022, 6:30 pm. *I am Not Your Negro*, moderated by Lexi Lattimore

Flyer prepared for Black History Month events. Please share and disseminate.

Food for BU Choir – arranged with Chelmsford pizza

Town paid for food and bus

Library art exhibit. Susan working with Jeff Hartman. At least five artists.

Hoping to plan a viewing for DEIC to view exhibit together. Plans to invite Select Board members as well. Library hours M-F 9:30 – 8:30

Lauren was able to secure backstage managers from the High School for the February 27 event at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts.

Joe Devoe, NAACP Merrimack Valley chapter President will speak at the event.

Boston University Gospel Choir are the featured artists. Waiting for their release forms for recording and livestream by CTM.

Feb 27, 2-4 pm. Free event at Chelmsford Center for the Arts

Maria Palacio will help advertise the events

**Land Acknowledgment Proclamation** – Latosha Dixon and Carly Conor Reim, in partnership with Maria Palacio and Laura Judge from the CPL, and Pat Wojtas from the Select Board.

Dixon, Reim, Palacio, and Judge shared their presentation for the Select Board, including the mission of DEIC.

FAQ document included with the Proclamation.

Chelmsford should have a LA Proclamation because: Chelmsford was settled in 1653 alongside land inhabited by Wamesit/Pawtucket band of the Pennacook people. The Indigenous people of Wamesit and the settler colonists of Chelmsford attempted to co-exist until King Philip's War (1675-76) vastly transformed relations between the two groups. Unjust criminal accusations, scalp bounty proclamations, and inhumane killings heightened tension and distrust between the two groups. In 1685, Wannalancit (the son of Passaconaway) signed away what remained of Wamesit to a group of colonists two of whom were from Chelmsford. The dispossession of Indigenous land, and the strategic use of coercion, disease, and violence are part of the truth of Chelmsford's past. This working group wants to work with the Land Management Group to, among other things, place markers at prominent places in town.

There is a full proclamation, and a shorter version to be read aloud at certain meetings and events.

The Chelmsford Public Library has many documents available to view.

Ask Select Board to create a town-wide action plan.

Library Board of Trustees support this proclamation.

Cochran referenced the town motto, and her objection to it. Dixon stated that it is a separate issue from the Land Acknowledgment and Indigenous People's Day.

Dzuris commented that the Land Acknowledgement Proclamation opens the conversation toward additional steps that can be taken. It may be time to initiate steps toward changing the motto. Any citizen can, with ten signatures, petition Town Meeting to start a committee to address an issue. Lattimore thinks we can educate people to what the motto truly says to build consensus to change.

Dzuris made a motion to present the Land Acknowledgement to the Select Board as it is currently written.

Donovan seconded.

Roll call: all yes in favor. Motion carried.

### **Watch It Wednesdays**

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March *Hidden Figures*

Please submit additional film recommendations to Reim, considering diverse groups and topics.

*Crip Camp* was suggested.

### **Indigenous Peoples Day**

No update. Waiting on action from the Commonwealth.

### **Women's History Month**

Working group – L. Dixon, R. Donovan, T. Dzuris

Dixon suggests featuring women from Chelmsford. Requested ideas by Monday, February 7.

C.Reim suggests Nancy Grippo, who works for the Senior community.

**Finances** - Anonymous donation of \$2500 made to Committee

### **Meeting schedule**

Dzuris made a motion to hold meetings every other Tuesday at 7 pm. All in favor.

Next meetings will be Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 7 pm and

Tuesday, March 1 at 7 pm.

Future topics –

Working with schools

Look into groups who hold election debates and discuss our involvement, perhaps questions for candidates

Juneteenth

Fundraising and logo

Expanding Social media footprint

Town motto

Guest speakers

### **Adjournment**

Dzuris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Reim.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,  
Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee