

Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
February 23, 2021

Members in attendance (remote via Microsoft Teams):

Phil Hicks, Chair

Latosha Dixon, Co-Chair

Susan Mackinnon, Clerk

Lauren Cochran, Carly Connor Reim, Rachel Donovan, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore, Joseph Mason

Absent: J. Dave, M. Feeney, B. Petro-Roy

Also present: Raffaella Nicoletta, J. Tubridy

Call to Order 7:03 pm.

This meeting is being recorded.

Approval of minutes of February 9, 2021 meeting

Motion to approve by L. Dixon. R. Donovan seconded. Motion approved.

Indigenous People's Day Project

C. Connor Reim reported on a working group meeting to plan for asking the town to move away from the October celebration of Columbus Day and to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day in its place. Raffaella Nicoletta is a recent college graduate who shared a great deal of information about the origins of indigenous people in Chelmsford with the group. The goal is for the Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DREIC) to make a formal request to the Select Board and ask them to sign a document to officially establish Indigenous Peoples' Day to recognize the culture and history of the original inhabitants of this area.

Working Group Updates

Culture -- March 31, 2021 marks Transgender Day of Visibility. R. Donovan reported on some videos and other resources. The working group will continue to work on content to share on the webpage.

Education -- S. Mackinnon reported that the working group had discussed next steps, including getting more information about specific courses and helping the Chelmsford Public Schools (CPS) with Professional Development on topics of diversity and inclusion. A date to meet again with the Assistant Superintendent or any curriculum department heads has not yet been scheduled.

Communication -- P. Hicks reported that feedback from the community on featured Accomplished African Americans on the webpage has been very positive. It was the first time something like this has been done in our community. The group all noted Cherrice Lattimore's contributions as the producer of three excellent videos filmed and shared through Chelmsford Telemedia (CTM). Lattimore thanked everyone for their help, in particular Tricia Dzuris and Pete Pedulla.

Diversity Training-- This workgroup will meet on March 2 to explore diversity training to offer to the Select Board and possibly for the entire DREIC committee or the CPS School faculty.

CR Documentary Support

Jesse Heines and Bob Pariseu are ready to present their Civil Rights documentary series along with a panel discussion on CTM on March 9. They requested questions for the panel from the members of this committee. More information on this can be found at <https://jesseheines.com/civilrights>

Next meeting

March 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by T.Dzuris. Seconded by C.Connor Reim. Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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