

Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
Town of Chelmsford, MA  
May 11, 2021

Members in attendance (remote via Microsoft Teams):

Phil Hicks, Chair

Susan Mackinnon, Clerk

Latosha Dixon, Vice Chair

Lauren Cochran, Carly Connor Reim, Rachel Donovan, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore, Joe Mason, Brian Petro-Roy

Absent: J. Dave, M. Feeney

Also attending: Debi Siriani

**Call to Order** 7:03 pm.

This meeting is being recorded.

**Approval of minutes of April 27, 2021 meeting**

T. Dzuris made a motion to accept the minutes with a spelling correction. L. Dixon seconded. Motion approved.

The agenda will be taken out of order to allow Debi Siriani to attend and report on Age Friendly Initiatives

**Select Board Update**

P. Hicks and L. Dixon will attend the June 7 Select Board to give a presentation on the work of this committee.

C. Connor Reim asked if this would be the time to inquire about the continuation of this committee. Hicks expects this would be the time.

**Working Group Update**

C. Connor Reim spoke about the work on changing the observance of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. Conor will work with Raffa Nicoletta to complete the article and create some slides. She asks that Hicks present the idea to the Select Board.

Juneteenth: B. Petro-Roy – use of Central Common and Academy Street approved, nearby parking and rest rooms arranged. Trinity Ambulance will station an emergency vehicle. Petro-Roy is point of contact with Police Chief and Town Manager, Board of Health written plan readied. Local art will be displayed on the CCA lawn. Petro-Roy is also exploring a photo presentation. J. Mason will create advertising. L. Dixon asked if we could have access to the anti-racist pledge? Perhaps signs with a QR code?

How do we answer this question- Why are we holding this event when all other town events (i.e., parade) were cancelled?

It will be a contained event, a smaller event, that did not require as much planning as the parade. This event is an educational opportunity about why Juneteenth is celebrated, and to advertise minority owned businesses.

Supplies? Masks, hand sanitizers. There are supplies available in the Town Clerks office. R. Donovan suggests we use Amazon Wish List to garner donations.

List of businesses: Food vendors – we cannot have people walking around eating and drinking. We need to have a designated roped-off area that will have distanced tables and sanitation. Town facilities could probably supply tables and chairs.

R. Donovan wants to maintain the tone for a day of reflection and celebration. Contact Lowell Sun and other organizations to reach out to people of color and set the tone for education. T. Dzuris suggests we provide visuals on the common, such as photography installations and signs, to bring the educational piece to life.

J. Mason embrace Racial Equity. DREIC swag?

C. Lattimore emphasizes the need to educate people about Juneteenth.

T. Dzuris and S. Mackinnon will recruit volunteers.

L. Cochran – Day of Peace and Justice (C. Lattimore and L. Dixon are part of this working group, add S. Mackinnon) September 19 or Saturday, September 25, 1-6 pm.

Ideas include a portable stage for Dance for peace, Sing for peace, Speak for peace (poetry and speeches). Collect stones to create a peace sign exhibit.

C. Connor Reim and P. Hicks – Film Series – Library has access to Kanopy technology, allows library to access and show a film. Plan to start film series and monitored conversation in late summer or fall.

The Library needs a moderator for a June 25 speaker.

### **Age Friendly Initiatives, Debi Siriani**

Senior Center – First job is to welcome everyone, so the goals need to be inclusive. Goal of Age-Friendly community is to make sure that people 60+ are included in any plans for the town. People with Dementia, caregivers, need to be part of the part of the conversation about civic engagement and transportation.

W.H.O. started Age-Friendly Initiative – 8 domains of livability – for setting goals. For instance, helping people without computers to have access to information during the pandemic. Program offerings: Zoom meeting for people having difficulty with hoarding, support networks. Work with police and fire dept. Training town employees in dementia friendly practices.

L. Dixon asked if the fact that Chelmsford is an approved AARP age-friendly community is well known. She also suggested that both groups share information via their webpages and newsletters. T. Dzuris will keep in contact with Natalie Dussault to share info about events, including Juneteenth and the Day of Peace in September.

C. Connor Reim asked about top 3 issues. \*Food security has been a big issue over the past year. \*Household chores, i.e., handyman services, small tasks that make it difficult for people to stay in their own home,

\*Transportation. She thanked Ms. Siriani for all that the Senior Center does.

The Senior Center is beginning to re-open. They will be allowing volunteers again. Ask Elena at the Senior Center if you are interested.

October 4-10 is Active Aging Week.

### **Diversity Training Update**

Complete by May 15. Follow-up discussions need to be conducted in small groups, with one person from each group report back in a DREIC meeting.

### **Meeting Schedule**

May 25, 2021 at 7 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Dzuris. Seconded by Petro-Roy. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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