

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
May 24, 2022

Members in attendance :

Latosha Dixon, Chair, Carly Reim, Co-chair, Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,
Lorena Betts, Lauren Cochran, Rachel Donovan, Cherrice Lattimore
Absent: Tricia Dzuris

Call to Order 7:05 pm.

This meeting is being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of minutes of May 10, 2022, meeting

C. Conor Reim made a motion to approve the 5-10-22 minutes. L. Betts seconded. Motion carried.

Land Acknowledgement statement

Committee Business

Pulse Check

Committee Vacancy

There is still a vacancy. One person expressed interest through the FB page.

Finance Update

\$3689.22 current balance.

Quote for outdoor display equipment equals \$2148.

\$63.21 for business cards

Approximately \$400+ for lawn signs

Lauren Cochran made a motion to purchase the lawn signs and business cards for an amount not to exceed \$500. Carly Conor Reim seconded the motion. Roll call, unanimous vote to approve.

Working Updates

Pride month

Listening Session on Monday, May 16 was well attended. A number of people spoke. The Select Board signed an updated proclamation in support of Pride Month during June.

Suggestions from speakers: Improved Sex ed, using pronouns on name tags, in emails. Reaching out to P-flag organization. Gender neutral bathrooms in public buildings. Better communication was requested.

L. Betts suggested a DEIC Instagram account. She offered to admin this.

C. Lattimore said it is important to maintain both Facebook and Instagram.

June 4th – Come Fly a Kite – rainbow kites on the town common.

L. Dixon sent a request to SB to ask permission to allow bunting to be flown during Pride Month. The Select Board unanimously declined the request. They will ask town counsel to draft wording to allow the town to continue to fly banners for the parade, for the holidays, and for veterans, but they will not consider flying any kind of flags for other events or groups.

Committee members expressed frustration. Would like to look to other towns. Seek out business owners and ask them to fly Pride Flag. Invite Pat Wojtas to our meeting to discuss all of the above.

Superintendent of Schools advertised Pride Fest on Friday June 10, at Westford Regency 9 am -1 pm.

S. Mackinnon will attend. C. Reim will post on FB.

Juneteenth

C. Lattimore and C. Reim, co-chair and emcees.

Talent, vendors, food, activities, equipment, parking, volunteers all set-up. Everything is arranged to go forward on June 18.

Education

L. Cochran- summer reading list almost exclusively white authors. She sent an email to Dr. Lang. He will look into it.

--Restorative Practice initiatives

S. Mackinnon attended the MIAA Diversity symposium on May 12.

Sent emails to students at Chelmsford High School, and follow-up to Athletic Director to continue as a resource for fall plans.

Dixon has been in contact with advisor of the LGBTQ+ club at Parker. Mackinnon and Betts will be in touch to meet with her.

(Queer space at high school, celebration on June 2 during Pride Block)

Watch It Wednesday

Crip Camp 6:30 May 24. Moderated by Carly

June – two films for Pride Month.

Day of Peace

Working group: L. Cochran, T. Dzuris, C. Lattimore, S. Mackinnon will meet in the near future.

Resident Engagement

C. Reim, R. Donovan, S. Mackinnon are able to add content on FB.

L. Betts will set up Instagram.

Meeting schedule

Next Meeting will be June 7, 2022, at 7pm

Agenda items:

Committee business

Working groups

Send requests for agenda to chair by June 2.

Adjournment

Reim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Cochran. Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm.

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