

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
June 7, 2022

Members in attendance :

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

Absent: none

Also in attendance: none

Call to Order 7:01 pm.

This meeting is being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of minutes of May 24, 2022, meeting

C. Reim made a motion to approve the 5-24-22 minutes. T. Dzuris seconded. Motion carried.

Land Acknowledgement statement

Committee Business

Pulse Check

Committee Vacancy

There were three applicants for two open positions. The three candidates will be invited to the next Select Board meeting to speak before the SB decides who to appoint.

L. Dixon and C. Reim met with Pat Wotjas. The process to fill most town committee vacancies is: An individual applies on town website. Select Board reviews applications and appoints members to committees. Current members of the committee are not involved in the appointments. Individuals could contact the Select Board to make recommendations.

Finance Update

Current balance is \$3689.22 minus a newly paid outstanding expense for NRT Bus (-360)
Axis Communications made a \$500 donation.

Publicity Materials

Business cards were ordered. Tent, sidewall, tablecloth and banner order is being processed and should be available by Juneteenth.

Independence Day Country Fair- DEIC will apply for a booth for July 3 and 4. Tricia, Lauren, Susan, Lorena, perhaps Carly will man booth.

Working Updates

Pride month

Come Fly a Kite – people attended, blew bubbles and attempted kite flying! Glenn Davison, kite master, attended and brought a number of special kites. He taught a mini course in kite flying. Rainbow Chelmsford gave out kites, flags, bubbles. Fun for all!

Jen Melanson announced that the Farmer's Market is celebrating Pride Month on June 11. They invited DEIC and Rainbow Chelmsford to participate.

Watch It Wednesday June 15 The Secret Love 6:30
June 29, Torch Song Trilogy 6:30
Register to attend.

L. Betts has contacted some people in other towns to find out what they do to acknowledge Pride Month, among them Abby Morgan from Nashoba Area Social Justice Alliance.

Juneteenth

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

Police, Fire, Farmer's Market contacts made.

Schedule of events is planned. Land Acknowledgement will be read by Pat Wojtas. She will ask other Select Board members if any will attend and perhaps read the Pride Month Proclamation. Full slate of speakers and performers lined up. Food and other vendors secured. Many kids' activities planned. Parking at Unitarian Church, Journey Church, and Congregational Church. Volunteers signed up for various tasks.

Rain date: Saturday at CCA.

Education

Working group met. After discussing our efforts to date we decided to focus on Restorative Justice and Restorative Circles.

S. Mackinnon and L. Betts attended a meeting of Stand Up Parker – a club at Parker Middle School. The students were very forthcoming in discussing their work and their needs. They are interested in organizing a Pride March. We would happily support that, but time is running out for this month, especially since the school year and Pride Month are almost over. S. Mackinnon will give them info about marching in parade on July 4 in case they are interested.

A meeting with two high school students from the Civic Action Club is scheduled for Friday.

Watch It Wednesday

Schedule for the last Wednesday of the month for the rest of the year.

July - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

August - Monsoon Wedding

September - The Straight Story

October - The Farewell

November - Wonder

December - Nothing Like The Holidays

Day of Peace

Working group: L. Cochran, T. Dzuris, C. Lattimore, S. Mackinnon

Date of event: September 17

Theme: Build Bridges for Peace with an emphasis on the Ukraine.

Donations to UNICEF Fund for Ukraine

Students asked to create art. Display on bridges around common.

Activities will include a Ukrainian dance lesson, making crafts such as Ukrainian head pieces.

Resident Engagement

C. Reim posts on DEI page and cross posts to other town pages. People refer back to committee page and “like” it.

L. Betts will open a DEI account on Instagram. Posts on FB can be shared on IG and vice versa.

Betts suggested that we allow comments to increase engagement.

Mackinnon asked if we could create a code of conduct to decide what types of comments would be permitted or disallowed.

Meeting schedule

Next Meeting will be June 21, 2022, at 7 pm

Agenda items:

Committee business

Working groups

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

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