

Human Rights Commission  
January 4, 2023

Place: Town Hall, 210 Central Street, East Hearing Meeting Room, 3rd floor  
Members Present: Stephen Leary (Chair), Tien Do-Suarez (Vice Chair), John Marquardt, Tim Miller-Dempsey, Ruth Bennett, Stephanie Gertz, Christine Griffin, Reena Patel  
Members Remote: Ardith Wieworka, Kelly Peguero, Sara Smithson, John Bradley

Members Absent: Ava Lydotes

Guests: None

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call the meeting to order - 700 pm

This meeting is being offered remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

2. Review and accept the minutes of the 11/30/2022 meeting

- Ruth Bennett- Motion
- John Marquardt- second
- Stephen Leary- aye
- Stephanie Gertz- aye
- Tien Do-Suarez- aye
- Reena Patel- aye
- Tim Miller-Dempsey- aye
- Ardith Wieworka- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- Kelly Peguero- aye
- John Bradley- not present for vote
- Christine Griffin- not present for vote

3. Read the Hingham HRC Mission Statement- Stephen Leary

4. Network For Social Justice Training Proposal

Steve spoke about putting together a request for the Selectboard to get funding for the training. The Commission would like the following questions for Liora Norwich:

- Who should be included in the second training
- How has ongoing training worked for other communities? What does long term training look like within and outside of NSJ organization?
- How quickly can we schedule the first training?
- Where does this training fit into the longer term goals the commission has?

## 5. Land Acknowledgement Update

John Bradley spoke to Tom Green who works for the Massachusett tribe. He was generous with time and inclination to help us. John is waiting to hear back from Mr. Green about whether there are actions that should be followed from a group that wants to proceed with a land acknowledgment.

## 6. Discuss 2023 meeting/training schedule

For now the dates are as follows:

Feb1, 2023  
March 1, 2023  
April 12, 2023  
May 3, 2023  
June 7, 2023  
Aug 2, 2023  
September 6, 2023  
October 4, 2023  
November 11, 2023

## 7. HRC Website

John Marquardt reported that the town website now includes HRC member names and mission statement. He will speak with Kate about getting an email address for the Commission that goes to up to 3 people. The group voted on setting up an email address.

- Stephanie Gertz- Motion
- Ruth Bennett- Second
- John Marquardt- aye
- Stephen Leary- aye
- Tien Do-Suarez- aye
- Reena Patel- aye
- Tim Miller-Dempsey- aye
- Ardith Wieworka- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- Kelly Peguero- aye
- John Bradley- aye
- Christine Griffin- aye

## 8. Menorah Lighting 12/21/2022

Tien reported that she worked with the HHS woodshop director, the Jewish temple, Select Board, the Downtown Hingham Association, and Talbots to organize the first Menorah lighting in Hingham. Talbots was a wonderful and supportive partner, and they also sent a holiday email out to share the event with their customers and employees. We are hoping it will be an annual tradition. The next step would be to find town space where this tradition could be incorporated annually. The Select Board was in attendance as well as a great community turn out. Funding may be available from HUC to support this tradition, the woodshop director at HPS can help design for next year, and we would need town approval to make it annual. Tien would like a small working group for this project. Anyone from the commission that is interested should email her.

John Bradley asked if the town would be doing something for Ramadan/Eid, and Tim Miller-Dempsey said he would ask HPS if there are designated spaces for students who may observe Ramadan outside of the cafeterias.

## 9. Matters not anticipated within 48 hours

Stephen Leary went to a recent Rec Commission meeting and gave a brief presentation about the HRC. He answered some questions so they could learn more about the commission. He encourages those representing town organizations to do the same with their committees.

## 10. Adjournment

- Tim Miller-Dempsey- Motion
- Stephanie Gertz- Motion
- Ruth Bennett- Second
- John Marquardt- aye
- Stephen Leary- aye
- Tien Do-Suarez- aye
- Reena Patel- aye
- Ardith Wieworka- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- Kelly Peguero- aye
- John Bradley- aye
- Christine Griffin- aye