

Human Rights Commission
February 1, 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, Ruth Bennett, Stephanie Gertz, John Bradley, Reena Patel, Ava Lydotes

Members Remote: John Marquardt, Christine Griffin, Ardith Wieworka, Stephanie Gertz, Sara Smithson,

Members Absent: Kelly Peguero

Guests: Liora Norwich, Katie Sutton

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call the meeting to order - 720 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

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

3. Read the Hingham HRC Mission Statement- Stephen Leary

4. Acknowledgement of February as Black History Month – Stephen Leary

5. Network for Social Justice Training- Liora Norwich of NFSJ present virtually
Liora spoke about the first training which will be in April, and the second training which will be around the end of June. She answered questions from the HRC about the process.

March 15 will be the 1st survey deadline

The second survey will go to stakeholders of our choosing (20-25 surveys)

The second survey will be at the end of March.

Stephen Leary stated that he and a couple members of the HRC had a meeting with Liz Klein and Tom Mayo to go over the training and the Select Board agreed to funds. Liora will follow up with a contract.

6. Hingham Unity Council - Katie Sutton

Katie Sutton presented a slide deck about the Hingham Unity Council and their work in our community. She also gave examples of events and the impact the organization is having in our community. Several board members were also in attendance.

7. Need to have the Mission Statement working group

The mission statement needs to be aligned with the charge set forth by the Select Board. Some words may be missing for specific groups in both statements. The working group will need to reconcile both lists.

8. Update on HRC Website - email - LT John Marquardt

Vote to have one email address that will go out to 2-3 people in the commission

- John Bradley- Motion
- Reena Patel- second
- Stephen Leary- aye
- Stephanie Gertz- aye
- Tien Do-Suarez- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- Tim Miller-Dempsey- aye
- Ardith Wieworka- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- John Marquardt- aye
- Christine Griffin- aye
- Ava Lydotes- aye

9. HRC visit to 'The Embrace'?

HUC is planning to go with South Shore Unity Council on President's Day. HRC members are welcome to join the group!

10. Matters not anticipated within 48 hours.

John Bradley spoke with Thomas Green, and Thomas shared a detailed history of the Massachusetts Tribe and neighboring tribes that were in Hingham and surrounding areas. The Tribal Council will partner on a statement, they are reviewing how they would like to engage with us in Hingham. They offered to partner with activities to raise awareness about the Massachusetts people and possibly come to town functions and educational opportunities.

Stephanie mentioned her concerns over the impact that a level budget would have on Hingham, it was agreed she would draft a letter that would be reviewed at the March meeting.

Members of the HRC can check the Massachusetts Human Rights Coalition website.
HUC offered copies of Stamped to anyone on the HRC that would like a copy to borrow and read.

11. Adjournment 835pm
- John Bradley- Motion
- Ruth Bennett- second
- Stephen Leary- aye
- Stephanie Gertz- aye
- Tien Do-Suarez- aye
- Reena Patel- aye
- Tim Miller-Dempsey- aye
- Ardith Wieworka- aye
- Sara Smithson- aye
- John Marquardt- aye
- Christine Griffin- aye
- Ava Lydotes- aye