

MINUTES
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
April 22, 2021

The meeting of the Sharon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was called to order at 7:02 by Chair Mrs. Kiana Pierre-Louis remotely via Zoom in accordance with Governor Baker's emergency declaration regarding public gatherings. The following, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee members were in attendance:

Members Present

Chair:	Mrs. Kiana Pierre-Louis
Clerk:	Mrs. Wendy Alexis-Janvier
Other Members:	Lt. Stephen Coffey
	Mr. Lajos Kamocsay
	Ms. Marjorie Mitlin
	Zainab Mohammed
	Ms. Ellie Zinno
	Rev. Dr. Bill Kondrath

Members Absent

Vice Chair:	Ms. Dru Ledbetter
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Others Present

Select Board Member	Hanna R. Switekowski
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Administrative Items

Statement from Chair

Chair Pierre-Louis shared a statement regarding the verdict that was announced in the Derek Chauvin's trial. She shared that Black citizens were holding their breaths for the verdict. She shared that although there was relief that justice was served, George Floyd's still lost of his. There is so much more work to be done. Derek Chauvin was held accountable. She shared a message of hope for the AAPI community and other under-represented groups.

Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski shared that she is happy that Ms. Pierre-Louis made a statement. She also expressed her concern with the increasing number of hate crimes against the Jewish community and hopes the Interfaith clergy put an event together. Rev. Dr. Bill Kondrath noted that he will share this request with the Interfaith Clergy.

Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski also shared the petition that was signed by the Select Board to recognizing the official definition Interactional Holocaust Group (IHRA) as part of Interaction Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Sharon Select board was the first to pass at the local level.

Email Correspondence Update

Wendy Alexis-Janvier shared that there wasn't any new email correspondence from March 19, 2021 through April 22, 2021.

DEI Training Update

Chair Pierre-Louis gave an update on the committees DEI training progress. The committee has completed 2 DEI training sessions.

Grant Team Update

Lt. Coffey shared an update on the status of the grant research that has been conducted. It has been very difficult to find grants in the area of diversity training. Chair Pierre-Louis said that a Bentley University student would like to volunteer to help the DEIC find grants.

Resource Team Update

Ellie Zinno shared an update on the status of resources for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion website. There have been committee members that have reached out with possible resource. There was a question around how the resources will show up on the page. Chair Pierre-Louis asked Mr. Kamocsay and Mrs. Alexis-Janvier to assist Ms. Zinno on the resource project.

Advisement of Select Board on Indigenous People/Columbus Day

Chair Pierre-Louis gave an update on advising the Select Board on Indigenous People/Columbus Day. The Select Board cannot make an update to the town holiday. This topic would have to go to a town meeting and then voted by the citizens of Sharon. Our option is to advise them on whether they should use the "/" in the name. Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski advise against this. Her research showed that Indigenous People find it offensive. DEI committee members asked questions about the time. Chair Pierre-Louis shared that she has spoken to people in the Indigenous community who feel that adding a slash is very offensive. She stated, that it is synonymous to adding the oppressor with those that have been oppressed. Since it is already Columbus Day, leave it as is until the town meeting. Mr. Kamocsay suggested advising the Select board to plan a warrant on this matter in the next town meeting. Town Member Tanya Lewis suggested advising the Select Board on a resolution on Indigenous Peoples Day. Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski shared that they have pushed resolutions and proclamations for Gun Violence, Pride Month, and in recognition of Indian Americans, so it is a possible. Town Member Karen Woods asked about what role does the committee members and community play in educating the town. Chair Pierre-Louis shared the plans to host a joint meeting with the Select Board and other groups to hold discussions on this. Danielle Forte shared that other towns have done Select board proclamation, warrants, town votes, etc. and she is excited to see this moving forward in this direction. She also shared that language is very important, it is important for the DEIC and the Select board working with Indigenous Peoples Day MA on wording for the proclamation. Mr. Kamocsay said that he likes the idea of advising the Select board on a proclamation

MOTION: (Kamocsay - Coffey) To advise the Select Board to issue a Resolution about changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day at the town level.
(Kamocsay - Mitlin) Amend the motion to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on October 11, 2021 and to issue such resolution by September 2021.

VOTED: 7-0-0 **PASSES**

Mrs. Wendy Alexis-Janvier	Yes
Lt. Stephen Coffey	Yes
Mr. Lajos Kamocsay	Yes
Ms. Zainab Mohammed	Yes
Ms. Ellie Zinno	Yes
Mrs. Kiana Pierre-Louis	Yes
Ms. Marjorie Mitlin	Yes

MOTION: (Kamocsay - Mitlin) To advise the Select Board to plan for a warrant at the next town meeting to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day permanently.

VOTED: 7-0-0 **PASSES**

Mrs. Wendy Alexis-Janvier	Yes
Lt. Stephen Coffey	Yes
Mr. Lajos Kamocsay	Yes
Ms. Zainab Mohammed	Yes
Ms. Ellie Zinno	Yes
Mrs. Kiana Pierre-Louis	Yes
Ms. Marjorie Mitlin	Yes

Autumn Andrade-de-Leon presentation on voting issues for Legal Residents in Sharon

Town Member Ms. Autumn Andrade-de-Leon shared her concern that regarding the problem of taxation without representation. She stated green card holders in the Town of Sharon, own property, pay taxes, and contribute to our town but are not allowed to vote for roles such as School Committee or Library Trustee. She also stated that as a US citizen she understands why green card holders shouldn't vote in Presidential elections. In her opinion she feels that this is an issue that everyone should be talking about. There are towns such as Boston who have discussed and tried to pass this initiative. Wayland went through the process, it was voted on and passed by the town, however, the bill did not get approved at the state level, and has stalled in committee. Although it is hard to get the numbers, approximately 20% of Sharon residents are green card holders. Town Member Tanya Lewis shared that she is willing to help in any way she can. While on the campaign trail, many people she has spoken to have brought up this issued. Town member Wenxiao Tiano shared that she looked into this several years ago, it went to town warrant but the town decided that this was not something they wanted to pursue at the time. She is willing to support Ms. Andrade-de-Leon in her efforts since this has been on her radar for a while. Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski shared that the Town Clerk's office will be able to find information on history of this subject. Town Member Ruth Sacrum shared that she is passionate about Voting Rights and Voting access and would love to support Autumn in this issue. She also shared that she has a connection with the Executive

Director of Common Cause and can help make a connection. Mr. Kamocsay has volunteered to look into the matter with the Clerk's office and would be willing to help find the data.

DEIC and Commission on Disabilities co-sponsored town event – Viewing of Crip Camp

Chair Pierre-Louis announced that the DEIC will co-sponsor a town event with the Commission on Disabilities to watch Crip Camp. She shared the trailer on the documentary and preliminary details. The tentative date is sometime in June.

Announcements

- Lt. Steve Coffey invited the committee and town members to sign-up for a station tour.
- Ms. Mitlin announced the Community speak-out happening on May 23rd.
- Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski wished those in the community observing Ramadan a meaningful holiday.
- Select Board Member Hanna R. Switekowski shared details of Sustainable Sharon's Earth Week event and other events happening in the community.
- Chair Pierre-Louis shared the details of upcoming candidates' forums being hosted by several organization in the community.

Adjourn

MOTION: (Kamocsay - Mitlin) To adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

VOTED: 8-0-0 **PASSES**

Mrs. Wendy Alexis-Janvier	Yes
Lt. Stephen Coffey	Yes
Mr. Lajos Kamocsay	Yes
Ms. Zainab Mohammed	Yes
Ms. Ellie Zinno	Yes
Mrs. Kiana Pierre-Louis	Yes
Rev. Dr. Bill Kondrath	Yes
Ms. Marjorie Mitlin	Yes