

MINUTES
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
May 20, 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
Vice Chair	Ms. Dru Ledbetter
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

Others Present

Select Board Member Emily Smith-Lee

Administrative Items

Statement and update by Chair

- a) Closed Captioning for Zoom
Chair Pierre-Louis shared an update on closed captioning. It is now available for Zoom meetings.
- b) Regular Meetings
Chair Pierre-Louis shared an update on the meeting schedule. DEIC meetings will now happen every 3rd Thursday of every month. We now have a standing Zoom account. Currently we are still meeting over Zoom.
- c) Crip Camp
Chair Pierre-Louis shared an update of the joint event DEIC will host with the Commission on Disabilities, June 24th at 7:30.

Approval of meeting minutes 2/22/2021

MOTION: (Kondrath - Mitlin) To approve the regular session minutes of 2/22/21.

VOTED: 9-0-0 **PASSES**

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

Email Correspondence Update

Wendy Alexis-Janvier shared an email correspondence received regarding hate speech vandalism occurring in the community.

DEI Training Update and next steps

Chair Pierre-Louis gave an update on the committees DEI training progress and next steps.

Sharon Historical Society

Vice Chair Ms. Ledbetter introduced Meg Winikates from the Sharon Historical Society. The Sharon Historical is applying for a Grant with Mass Humanities. The grant is specifically to host reading on Fredrick Douglass. The speech recommend is “What then to a Slave is the 4th of July.” Ms. Winikates would like support and feedback from the DEIC on the grant application. The Sharon Historical Society is planning a reading on July 3rd, in lieu of fireworks.

Discussion about DEIC future, mission, charge, and next steps

The Select board will review the committee make up and charge on June 8th. The committee reviewed and provided feedback on updates to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee charge.

Announcements

- Chair Pierre-Louis shared that the Selectboard announced a proclamation for AAPI Heritage Month.
- Ms. Mitlin shared details of the community speak-out happening this Sunday.
- Lt. Coffey shared details on a program that will be airing on hate crime, hate speech, and Anti-Defamation League (ADL). In the meantime, feel free to call the police department for information on hate crime reporting.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting

Ms. Mitlin shared that she received a phone call from a community member who is concerned about discourse on Sharon social media groups. The community member is concerned about an individual in particular who spews hate speech. The committee discussed this topic and shared ideas on how we can address this issue. Ms. Mitlin recommended that the DEIC draft a statement to post.

Mr. Kamocsay shared a follow-up on a previous meeting topic on voting rights for community members. He has some data that might be useful for this topic. He hopes to add it to the agenda for an upcoming meeting. Selectboard member Emily Smith Lee shared that this is part of an upcoming topic for the Selectboard.

Chair Pierre-Louis shared an announcement of Ellie Zinno’s upcoming graduation.

Adjourn

MOTION: (Mitlin - Ledbetter) To adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

VOTED: 9-0-0 **PASSES**

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