

MINUTES OF THE 2/7/22 MEETING

Items highlighted indicate CDEI member action needed

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was scheduled at 5:15 pm by Zoom

What: Town of Hadley – Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

When: February 7, 2022/ 5:15 pm

Where: Zoom

Who: Co-Chair Margaret Mastrangelo (MM), E. Wayne Abercrombie (WA), Mark Dunn, (MD), Jane Nevinsmith (JN)*, Clerk Pat Rissmeyer (PR), Sarah Strong (SS)

Absent: Co-Chair Kayla Werlin (KW), Ada Bouthet (AB)*, Amy Lanham (AL)*, Joanne Goding (JG)

*Non-voting member

Welcome and call to order

Co-Chair MM called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm

1. Clerk's report

The group reviewed the minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2022. WA moved to approve the minutes, and his motion was seconded by SS. Minutes were approved 5-0.

2. Hopkins report

No report

3. Old business

Thank you note to Jason Burns, Hopkins Academy Social Studies Teacher

The group reviewed the letter of appreciation sent to Mr. Jason Burns (with a copy to the Hopkins Principal April Camuso, and Superintendent Dr. Annie McKenzie) thanking him for the outstanding “First Nations” presentation at the Hadley Library on 11/9/21. The group discussed sending a copy of this letter to the Select Board. JN affirmed this idea and advised that we send the letter to the Town Administrator and ask him to send it to the Select Board members. SS recognized KW for collaborating with her on the letter.

a. Survey committee report

MM asked PR to review the updated version of the DRAFT DEI Summary Report for the Town of Hadley. PR shared the document so the group could view their suggested changes from the last version as follows:

- The revised document begins with the Town Official interview summaries. The document includes the Town Official name, job title, and years of service; the date of their interview with the CDEI and a link to the interview on the Town of Hadley website.
- The revised document summarizes the work of Hadley Learns (up to January 2021) and notes that Hadley Learns meetings are not recorded in order that participants feel open to sharing honestly and growing in their understanding. JN suggested that we update the Hadley Learns section with their Feb.& March topics.

- The revised document includes highlights of the work of the Hadley Council on Aging and the Historical Commission and the Hadley World's Fair, First Nations and Hopkins Diversity Club.
- ✓ JN suggested that we add the Age and Dementia Friendly Community initiative to the Hadley Council on Aging section.
- ✓ PR suggested that we add Hadley Library to the document.
- ✓ SS suggested that we add the notes from our meeting with Bill Dwyer to the document. SS will draft a brief statement on the complexity of the affordable housing issues in Hadley.

affordable Housing

The group engaged in a thoughtful discussion about CDEI interest in partnering with others in Hadley on affordable housing. The group acknowledged the complexity of the nationwide problem of affordable housing and distinguished between Affordable and affordable housing. JN advised that we put our heads together to identify representatives from the various Hadley groups working on affordable housing. MD suggested that we ask, "What changes need to be made in Hadley to provide affordable and accessible housing?" WA recommended that we add this item to our March agenda and ask ourselves "What is it we can do to support this work?" MD offered to work with JN on next steps.

b. Update on questionnaire for reporting and resolving allegations of discriminatory behavior: Mark & Wayne

No update

New Business:

a. Email from Patrick Borezo; re; Stolen Beam series

MM referenced the email (attached to the 2/7/22 agenda) from Hadley Library Director Patrick Borezo inviting the CDEI to sponsor Stolen Beam a 5-week program series on reparations. Devorah Jacobsen (who served on the CDEI when it was first formed) is the co-developer/co-leader of the class/experience. As described in Devorah's letter to Patrick, Stolen Beam offers participants an opportunity for significant learning and thoughtful conversation on the topic of reparations specifically for African Americans.

The conversation led to a general discussion on reparations; SS shared that Hadley Learns discussed the issue this week at their February meeting. JN informed the group that Amherst has been told that they cannot use pre-cash fund for reparations. WA volunteered to identify a group in Hadley to co-sponsor the Stolen Beam series.

b. Other ideas for committee sponsorship - No discussion

Open Agenda - No discussion

Next meeting date

MM announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, March 7.

Adjournment

MM thanked everyone for their participation and MD made a motion for adjournment and WA seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 5-0.

Minutes submitted by Pat Rissmeyer, Clerk, Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion