

## MINUTES of the Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) Meeting 6/15/23

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 7:00 pm

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

When: June 15, 2023 @7:00 pm

Where: Hadley Senior Center

Who: Chair Mark Dunn (MD), E. Wayne Abercrombie (WA), Joanne Goding (JG), Megan Relin (MR), Clerk Pat Rissmeyer (PR) and Sarah Strong (SS)

Absent: Megan Relin (MR), C Randy Izer, (RI)\* \*Non-voting member/SB liaison

**1. Welcome and call to order** MD called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

### **2. Opening Reflection**

MD opened the floor to member reflection. WA shared that he invited his in-laws to the Hadley World's Fair earlier that evening to introduce them to the Senior Center and to the community. WA was delighted with how much they enjoyed the event and how warmly they were welcomed by Select Board member Jane Nevinsmith who invited them to complete a Senior Center registration application.

### **3. Clerk's Report**

PR distributed for review the updated CDEI minutes of May 18, 2023. JG moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

### **4. Old Business**

***Growing Up Trans. FRONTLINE (2015) CDEI Movie Matinee: 6/16 @ 12:30 pm*** PR reported that she worked with Violet Suska, Program Coordinator at the Council on Aging/Senior Center, to select the LGBTQ film. PR reported that MG is prepared to introduce the film and facilitate the discussion.

**Update on CDEI website** – SS reported that all but one set of minutes have been uploaded on the Town of Hadley CDEI website. The April 2021 minutes are missing. MD was the Clerk at the time, and he will look to see if he has a copy. WA also agreed to consult with the prior Chair KW to see if she has a copy. The group discussed other information that could be uploaded to the website including the CDEI 2022 Annual Report. PR agreed to share the final copy with SS and she will move forward with posting.

### **5. New Business**

**Hadley Media support/technical training.** MD reported that the Town has decided to focus their media capacity on elected positions and volunteer committees must provide their own support. MD shared the dates of the training and MD and WA offered to attend although WA shared that he cannot commit to providing the technological support.

**Troy Brin, Hadley Director of Human Resources,** MD offered to introduce himself to Troy and invite him to come to a future meeting.

**Braining future collaborations/initiatives** – The group suggested that we consider the following ideas:

- Make a list of Town official and Town Committees with whom to build relationships.
- Circle back to the people we connected with in the past.
- Keep an eye on the EconoLodge.

- Request an update from Alexis Breiteneicher, Executive Director of Valley CDC. PR offered to reach out.

## 6. Open Agenda –

PR suggested we recruit new CDEI members to share the workload and to build a group of successors.

The group agreed and proposed the following recruitment strategies:

- ✓ Flyer in the Hadley Library
- ✓ Announcement in Senior Center Newsletter
- ✓ Announcement on the CDEI website
- ✓ Advertise in the local faith communities
- ✓ Include an announcement on the Fall Hadley Town Meeting

MD reported a community member suggested the CDEI consider applying for Community Preservation Act Funds. MD provided an overview of the Community Preservation Act.

JG referenced a brochure titled “Class Action” and introduced the issue of ‘classism’ as a potential topic for further discussion. The group expressed interest in looking at classism as a DEI issue and perhaps even offering a film/discussion on the topic.

**7. Closing reflection** – JG shared that she is finishing the book *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents* (2020) by Isabel Wilkerson. JG referenced the Epilogue in *Caste*, and the group briefly discussed the power of building bridges across commonalities.

**8. Next meeting** MD announced that the next meeting will be on July 20, 2023, at 7 pm in the Senior Center. MD has another commitment and will not be in attendance.

**9. Adjournment** MD thanked everyone for their participation and WA made a motion for adjournment; SS seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by a vote of 5-0.

Minutes submitted by Pat Rissmeyer, Clerk, CDEI