

MINUTES of the Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) 7/21/22 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 7:00 pm

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

When: July 21, 2022, 7:00 pm

Where: Hadley Senior Center

Who: E. Wayne Abercrombie (WA) by Facetime, Mark Dunn (MD), Joanne Goding (JG), Clerk Pat Rissmeyer (PR), Sarah Strong (SS)?

Absent: Randy Izer, (RI)*

*Non-voting member

1. Welcome and call to order

Clerk PR called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. She turned over the meeting to MD who shared that he is willing to serve as the Interim Chair and PR will serve as Clerk.

2. Clerk's report

The group reviewed the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2022. SS moved to approve the minutes, and JG seconded the motion. Minutes were approved 5-0.

3. Old business

a. Juneteenth event

PR reported that twenty people attended the CDEI Juneteenth event: *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America: Freedom*, season 1, episode 4 (Netflix, 2021) held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at the Hadley Library. Those who responded to a follow-up program evaluation rated the event a four, (on a scale of 1-4), noting its educational value, relevance to the occasion and comfort of the experience. One attendee shared that she enjoyed the Freedom episode so much that she watched the other episodes the next day. Attendees also expressed appreciation for the refreshments especially Kayla's homemade red velvet cupcakes. Regarding improvements, one person suggested she would have appreciated an opportunity for discussion; however, she noted that she equally enjoyed getting home. Another attendee suggested we offer the program on the actual holiday next year. The group discussed this as a potential idea for next year.

b. CDEI response to Select Board Member comments

As RI is not in attendance there is no update on this item. Item is tabled for the next meeting.

4. New Business

a. CDEI membership and leadership

MD confirmed that he is willing to serve as CDEI Chair and the CDEI membership will be the five members present with RI as our Select Board Liaison. In her role as Clerk, PR agreed to manage all the administrative tasks (post agenda/minutes, take minutes, update website and access email). MD will

facilitate the meetings. WA made a motion to approve Mark as CDEI Chair and PR as Clerk. Motion was approved 5-0.

b. CDEI meeting dates

The group agreed to hold CDEI meetings the third Thursday of each month, 7:00-8:15 pm as follows:

Aug 18
Sep 15
Oct 20
Nov 17
Dec 15

5. Open Agenda

a. CDEI member swear-in

PR informed the group that each member must be sworn in as member of the CDEI by Jessica Spanknebel, Town Clerk at Town Hall. In addition, each CDEI member must complete the on-line training available via the Hadley website.

b. Future agenda items and Homework

WA expressed interest in developing a “To Do” list for the CDEI. MD affirmed this idea and suggested that we keep a running list – may be a “Wish List” or a “Want List.” The group began to brainstorm ideas including but not limited to:

- Connecting with the Gazette to ask for an article featuring the Hadley CDEI
- Partnering with Town agencies (Hadley Learns, School diversity groups)
- Celebrating Indigenous People’s Day
- Revisiting the survey questions JG developed that the CDEI used to survey Town organizations
- Reviewing the inquiry that WA and MD sent to Town Officials and the responses they received
 - Note: WA agreed to send this survey data to the CDEI members
- Reviewing the Hadley Housing Survey questions to determine if any of those questions are relevant to the CDEI mission/interests
- Reviewing the report that MM developed and made available at the last town meeting

WA suggested that each member develop a list of what they would like to accomplish, and MD asked that we take this on individually as homework and discuss at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 18, 2022, at 7 pm in the Senior Center. MD will consult with Town Officials about recording the meetings and offering a Zoom option.

MD thanked everyone for their participation and WA made a motion for adjournment and WA seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm by a vote of 5-0

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