

MINUTES of the Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) 6/6/22 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: June 6, 2022/ 5:15 pm

Where: Hadley Senior Center

Who: Co-Chair Co-Chair Kayla Werlin (KW), Margaret Mastrangelo (MM), E. Wayne Abercrombie (WA) by Facetime, Randy Izer, (RI), Clerk Pat Rissmeyer (PR), Sarah Strong (SS),

Absent: Ada Bouthet (AB)*, Mark Dunn, (MD), Amy Lanham (AL)*, Joanne Goding (JG), Jane Nevinsmith (JN)*

*Non-voting member

1. Welcome and call to order

Co-Chair KW called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

2. Clerk's report

The group reviewed the minutes of the meeting of May 2, 2022. MM moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by SS. SS suggested two edits to the minutes, deletion of the word 'proposed' and the change of the word "Hog" to "High" in two places. Minutes were approved 5-0.

3. Hopkins report

No report

4. Old business

a. Juneteenth

The group confirmed the details of the CDEI organized Juneteenth event: *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America: Freedom*, season 1, episode 4 (Netflix, 2021). The one-time educational showing of this docuseries will be held on Thursday, June 16th at the Hadley Library. KW provided background information on the episode explaining that it is set in Texas and describes Juneteenth history and traditions.

The group described Juneteenth event publicity. KW sent a flyer of invitation to the Hadley faith communities, schools principals, the school superintendent, and to the *Hampshire Gazette*. PR sent a personal invitation to members of the Select Board and to all administrators with an email listed on the Town website. PR also submitted event information to the *Valley Advocate*. KW and PR tested the Library media with Library Director, Patrick Borezo.

Members agreed to provide the following refreshments

- KW will bring red velvet cupcakes and a beverage like hibiscus tea
- PR will bring a gluten-free dessert and strawberry soda, seltzer
- MM will drop off brownies as she is unable to attend

5. New business

a. CDEI response to Select Board Member comments

The group engaged in a discussion of a Select Member's Facebook page post that characterized increased affordable housing as bringing more 'crime crap' to Hadley.

The CDEI members discussed the statement as offensive and disparaging of members of our community. The statement assumes that a person of lower economic status brings crime to a community. As the public comment lacks context, the CDEI would like the Select Board Member to explain it. After some discussion, Select Board liaison to the CDEI, Randy Izer (RI) offered to bring this request to the Town Administrator Carolyn Brennen. In addition to a request for clarification of the comment, the CDEI would like to inquire about DEI training for Town officials as well as any policies or guidelines for Town Officials on making public comments on matters related to Hadley business.

- b. Important procedural tasks post Margaret/Kayla
 - i. Requirements for posting a meeting
 - ii. Accessing/updating/maintaining website
 - iii. Accessing email

KW reviewed the critical tasks involved in serving as CDEI chair, overall emphasizing the Chair must work collaboratively with Town Officials to fulfill their procedural responsibilities.

CDEI Meetings - Contact: Jessica Spanknebel, Town Clerk

Jessica is responsible for posting the CDEI meeting agenda, minutes and Zoom link. The chair provides this information to Jessica at least a week in advance. Sufficient lead time is essential as agenda must be posted on the Town Website no fewer than two business days in advance of the meeting or it cannot be held. Jessica will acknowledge in writing receipt of the information and post it.

CDEI Website – Contact: Jennifer Sanders James, Assistant Procurement Officer/Licensing Coordinator

Jennifer will provide direction (and the password) to the Chair to update the website.

CDEI Email

KW and MM have the gmail account password for checking CDEI email.

6. Adjournment

The group proposed that the next meeting be held on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:15 pm to accommodate Joanne. Pat offered to reach out to Joanne to see if this later start time would work for her.

KW thanked everyone for their participation and MM made a motion for adjournment and KW 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