

Town of Dedham Human Rights Commission

August 26, 2020– 6:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted by Zoom

Members Present: Margaret Adams, Robert Blaney, Joe Borsellino, Mayanne Briggs, Mike Buckley, Chris Kelly, Amy Lafont, Diane Loud, Margaret Matthews, Russ Poole,

Meeting minutes:

July 2020 minutes were accepted by roll call vote.

I Am Dedham:

The HRC determined at a previous meeting to streamline the format of the I Am Dedham show and have a monthly topic or theme. Our next taping will be September 8th, conducted via Zoom. Margaret Adams: cannot do September 8th. Is interested in featuring the Anti-Racism Coalition. Margaret Matthews: has a possible guest from the Dedham Historical Society; has sent confirmation email but has not received a reply. Also interested in increasing the number of Dedham leaders interviewed.

Joe: suggests that we interview the police chief; also increase focus on “making things happen.”

Rob: has some youth who could potentially be guests.

Interrupting Racism training:

Mixed feedback from those HRC members who attended, particularly 2 aspects:

- Expanding invitees to include non-Dedham participants
- Combining the last 2 scheduled meetings into 1

Participants felt that this ‘diluted’ the experience.

REMAP (Racial Equity Municipal Action Plan) Program

Joe has spoken to Leon Goodwin, who indicated that he will be filling out an application for this as part of committing to systemic change. More information can be found on the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council website](#) here.

Report out from workstream liaisons:

William Gould project (Russ)

Russ reports that Brian Keaney, who is heading this project, has backed off the idea of a statue but suggestions are still be considered.

Historical Society (Margaret Matthews)

The Historical Society archives are still closed due to COVID-19.

Motherbrook Arts (Rob)

There is currently an outdoor exhibit called Convergence.

Dedham Education Foundation (Mayanne)

Mayanne reports that the annual grant proposal cycle has started.

Interfaith group (Mike)

The faith organizations in Dedham have come together to galvanize over human rights. Mike reports that the first meeting went well. Next meeting August 31 at 1 p.m.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator hiring committee (Chris)
Chris updated us on the hiring process. 6 interviews were held this week and finalists will be forwarded to the next step, which is site visits and community meetings.

Times articles:

Margaret M planning to time her housing article for September 11th issue.

MLK event:

Joe has reached out to music and dance organizations; Chris has reached out to Patricia Sánchez-Connally for keynote.

New business:

Joe has heard from DPS Superintendent Mike Welch about some staffing and curriculum changes. There will now be a Social Justice class taught by Christian Ledger at DMS.

Dedham Historical Society is asking the residents of Dedham to share their stories/experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests and movement. Interested parties should reach out.

Future Meetings:

September 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Loud