

Dedham Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Joe Borsellino, Michael Buckley, Diane Barry Preston, Jim Kaufman, Chris Kelly.

Approval of September Minutes: Without a quorum, minutes could not be approved.

Discussion of House Bill 3115: Joe informed the group about a bill before the Massachusetts House (#3115) which would ensure that the many diverse groups within the larger Asian/Pacific Islander population are fairly and equitably represented.

I Am Dedham: October episode scheduled to tape on Oct. 21. The focus is on Dedham's Refugee Collaborative, their current efforts to relocate a family from Afghanistan, and their earlier success in establishing a family from Uganda here in Dedham. Chris will interview Janet Holmes, a member of the Collaborative, and Joe will interview Abou Bibuka, a member of the family who came here from Uganda. Tentative ideas for November and December are a focus on housing and a preview of the MLK Day celebration, respectively.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Planning: Jim announced that Dedham resident, Harvard Law School professor, and published author Randall Kennedy has agreed to deliver the keynote at the 2022 MLK Day celebration.

Courageous Conversations: Town Manager Leon Goodwin will join the group at an upcoming meeting to discuss findings from last year's Courageous Conversations event, reactions to it, and planning for future events. In addition, Joe will be meeting separately with both Leon and with Select Board chair Dimitria Sullivan to begin considering next steps.

Designing Dedham: Recommendations for the Dedham Master Plan 2030 from the Designing Dedham committee were shared.

"Dawnland" screening recap: Joe attended the HRC co-sponsored screening of "Dawnland" at the Dedham Community Theater. About 50 people attended and heard a terrific presentation from a Native American leader who is based in Maine.

HRC Resource Guide: HRC groups in Wayland and Hingham are both using our resource guide as templates for their own communities. The group discussed updating our own, and Mike said that he will review what Wayland and Hingham add to their versions of the document to assess whether we should add those resources as well.

Cultural Council Application: Chris submitted an application to the Dedham Cultural Council, drafted by Margaret Adams, requesting funds for a performance by Veronica Robles and her female mariachi band. Assuming we receive funding, the performance will be part of a larger multicultural festival planned by the HRC for spring or fall 2022.

Dedham School of Music: Mike Emery will attend next month's meeting to brainstorm ways that DSM and the HRC can work together. It was suggested that the upcoming multicultural festival could be a good fit.

Opportunities for Police Ride-Alongs: Mike reminded the group that the offer to ride along in a cruiser with a Dedham Police officer remains open, and would be a great way to understand the work of our local police force.

HRC Article Amendment: Joe attended recent meetings of the Bylaw Committee and the FinCom Committee ahead of next month's Town Meeting. Both committees will recommend the HRC's article, which would allow town entity-appointed members who live outside of Dedham to serve.

Addressing Hate in Communities: Members of the HRC are invited to attend an online discussion with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the MA Attorney General's office, NAACP and other groups, Tues. Oct. 26 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. Contact Joe for details.

No Hate in Dedham photos: Amanda Smith continues to take photos of local groups with the No Hate in Dedham banner, and Joe has been submitting one photo each week to the *Dedham Times*. Coming up soon, Mike will coordinate a photo of the police department, and Joe Hamilton is working on a photo with Dedham veterans.

Mother Brook Arts and Community Center

Jean Ford Webb at Mother Brook approached Joe to ask if the HRC can help recommend candidates to join their board of trustees.

Request that HRC support people who refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19

John Hampe wrote to the HRC to ask that we take a public stand in support of people who refuse COVID-19 vaccinations and are now losing their jobs.