

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”) Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2023
6:00 PM
Longmeadow Adult Center, Conference Room
211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106

This was the fourth meeting of the newly formed DEI Advisory Committee, appointed by the Longmeadow Select Board to continue the work of the Longmeadow Coalition for Racial Justice as the group facing the community.

Committee Members Present – Clerk - Tammye Erb (she/they), Saul Finestone (he/him), Dr. Ronnie Leavitt (she/her), Christopher Morris (he/him), Linda Preston (she/her), and Beverly Sager (she/her).

Excused – Chair – Dr. AnnMarie Martinez (she/her), Gabriel Mokwuah (he/him).

1. The clerk called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.
2. Public Comments: The meeting was an open meeting where public comment was offered. There were no public comments. This committee encourages the public to attend.
3. Committee Comments: Saul announced the continuing dates of conversations between Ryan McCollum and himself this year on Tuesdays: August 29 (Topic is “Wokeism”), October 10, and December 12 (topics to be determined). These public conversations so far have featured the topics of Critical Race Theory and Voter Suppression, have been well attended, and are held at the Longmeadow Adult Center at 6:00 PM.

A brief conversation about transgender and non-binary people, their pronouns, and a general Q&A regarding the same occurred among those in attendance. Tammye is willing to field questions to the best of her knowledge and the committee will continue these informal conversations as topics arise in the future.

A brief conversation about racism and racist & intersectional microaggressions occurred among those in attendance. The topic centered particularly on commenting on, discriminating based on, or touching the hair of a person of color, and then moved on to singling out the appearance of a person part of a marginalized group where the person is the only person at a gathering.

4. Old Business
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023. Saul motioned to approve the May 18, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes and Christopher seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0 with no edits.

- b. Continued Review of Committee Scope and Sub-Committee Appointments and interests (in alphabetical order). Tabled in the absence of the Committee Chair.
 - c. In the absence of the chair, the committee members shared contact information to add to the Chair's information. The clerk will compile and disseminate the information to the group after this meeting.
 - d. The committee discussed raising issues with the Select Board in the form of gathering issues and that the interface should be our Chair.
 - i. *This committee awaits word from the Select Board to ascertain the next steps to replace the rescinded appointment as we are now short one committee appointee.*
 - e. Christopher reported that he met Lauren Rollins, presently of Northampton, MA, and formerly of Longmeadow's Coalition for Racial Justice, and that she offered to be a consultant to this committee.
 - f. The committee members discussed books and documentaries they are using for education and continuing awareness. They also discussed local groups they would like to engage with including Massachusetts Cultural Council, Cultural Equity Learning Community, and Valley Opportunity Council, among others.
 - g. The results of these endeavors will be disseminated to town committees and the community at large through means that will be determined. *This committee will endeavor to seek participation from the Longmeadow community.*
5. New Business
- a. Future meeting agenda lookahead: The next meeting is July 20th at 6 PM. Ronnie reported that she will not attend.
6. Adjournment. At 7:23 PM, *Saul motioned, and Christopher seconded to adjourn our meeting. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.*

Respectfully submitted the committee,

Tammye Erb, Clerk