

STOUGHTON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 8, 2023

12:00 p.m. via Google Meeting

In accordance with Governor Baker's declaration of June 16th, 2021 extending Covid 19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency and recently extended until March, 2023, this meeting was conducted as virtual via Google Meets for those who wished to participate remotely.

Present: Debra Roberts, Chair; Bettye Sabree, Vice Chair, Steve Cavey; Tamisha Civil; Chris Shannon; Maggie Giusti, Stephanie Patton, REMAP guest, Teressa Tapper, REMAP guest, Christopher McGhee, REMAP guest

Absent: Faye Howard for a personal family matter

Agenda:

Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 12:03pm and invited all who were able to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2023

Chair Roberts asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes for January 11th. All agreed. Motion made by Vice Chair Sabree and second by Ms. Shannon. to approve the minute. 6-yes; 0-no. Motion passed

DEI Draft Trial Run Training

The DEI Draft trial run training was to occur on Wednesday, Feb 15th. This item was tabled and the training date was postponed because Atty Dolan was absent due to illness and Ms. Howard was absent due to a personal family matter.

Stoughton Meeting and Addressing Community Needs: Inviting REMAP Year 2 Members

Those in attendance discussed recent community incidents and expressed a need to take action to bring the community together. An idea of a vision park was discussed and potential locations. Also, artwork or a tangible item that represents Stoughton is a welcoming community to all was discussed.

Christopher McGhee commented that he visits the park frequently. It resembles to a community area that families enjoy and feel positive about. The park is also very frequented by kids. Steve

Cavey believes a way to approach eventual acts of vandalism, like getting together as a group to clean it up sends a powerful message. Acknowledging that this may happen should be part of the plan. Stephanie Patton recalled vandalism that had taken place at Halloran Park in the past and how the clean-up was organized. Stephanie Patton explained that her work is focused on adolescent substance abuse from a behavioral/mental perspective. She believes kids connected to the Community is very important. All that has been discussed is important work. What the School Department has in place should be known. Students are finding it challenging because some school policy

changes that have occurred. The staff is also finding other ways to express themselves. Having ways of building connections, bonding, and creating safe spaces is very important to the health of the Community.

Debra Roberts commented that the homework is to work on the upcoming billboard policy and the short-term messages. The next meeting agenda will have discussion on long-term things and budgeting in more detail. Also, on the agenda will be a discussion on ways or ideas of getting the children/students more involved.

Betty Sabree finds and understands the Committee's outreach, but she would like to know what types of training are the students receiving in the Schools. No one had a response. The town's charter pertaining to separation of responsibilities was mentioned.

Debra Roberts suggested having a meaningful event in June. Teresa Tapper agreed and others agreed. A subGroup was formed to start the planning process. Mr. Cavey and Ms. Giusti volunteered to lead the subGroup. A possible draft of an eventual event, Community focused, can be discussed at the next March meeting. The Juneteenth event will also be discussed in more detail. Christopher McGhee, Library Director, will be looking and working with his staff on ideas to reinforce the theme.

Approval of the November 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Standing Agenda Item: Stoughton is a Welcoming Community - Next Steps
Discussion was included in item

Set Date for Next Meeting: March 8, 2023 at 12pm.

Adjourn; Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cavey; second by Ms. Shannon. Meeting adjourned at 1pm.

Approved on:

03/08/2023

Signed by:

Debra C Roberts

Debra C. Roberts, Chair