

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m. May 15th, 2025

Present:

	David Martin, liaison	X	Suravi Bhatia, student
X	Melissa Kaplan Morse, co-chair		Wanjiku Gachugi, liaison
X	Sunanda Pepalla, clerk	X	Zayd Dhashageer, student
X	Diane Randolph Jones, co-chair	X	Jack Dirstine
X	Sandra Hinds		

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Regular Business

1. Updates from the Co-Chairs and DEI Director Office

- **Immigration Events**
 - May 18 (5:30-8pm Sunday), First Parish Church, Immigration in Times of Change
 - May 21 (7:00 pm Wednesday), Acton Town Hall, Community Forum on Immigration – Policy, Protection and Local Impact
- June 21 (12-3 PM) Acton Pride Festival; consider having table.
- Bias Incidents: Two new reports related to housing.
- **ICE Activity Responses**
 - Community standout at Town Hall on Sunday
 - Acton police chief statement on Monday
- Statement from DEI Commission is critical; share resources (the nature of the response should be tangible and tactical)
 - Diane will contact United Way to collaborate; check with Wanjiku on other community organizations.
 - Melissa will attend the 5/21/25 Community Forum on Immigration to learn about resources.
 - Diane and Melissa may draft a statement before the next meeting.

2. Transfer Station and Curbside Analysis Presentation

- How many of you use the transfer station?
 - Most have a sticker and enjoy taking advantage of the mulch, composting and swap shop.
- How do you feel about your current trash and recycling services?
 - Private service (overpriced, convenience, timely)
 - Sticker (busy on Sat, limited to just one car)

- Do you think we are missing any environmental considerations?
 - None we could think of
- Hybrid option to use transfer station for recycling special items etc. but still have the convenience of curb side pickup.
 - This is a popular option, and the majority are amenable.
- Should the transfer station collect something else?
 - Increase donation items that can be sorted.
- Any addition to curb side pickup?
 - Leaf pickup, composting, Christmas tree, donations.
- Feedback: Who provides the barrels, flexibility with the pickup, cost effective as compared to private companies, frequency of pick up.

3. Juneteenth Planning Update

- Two venues (Acton Women's Club, Acton Congregational Church)
- Secured speaker: Ray Anthony Shephard (Writer and History Teacher)
- Zayd is working with the high school band director to figure out the possibility of students playing at the event.
- Working with a local tour guide to discuss local Acton history, including Minister Woodbury.
- Diane is working on a video and poster about horse culture.
- Flyer to be available for the next Working Group meeting on 5/27/25.
- Refreshments: Juice and cookies sponsored by Acton Women's Club.

4. Commissioner Liaison Updates

- The Housing Production Plan is being reviewed for public comments and will be finalized next month.
- Article 31 related to housing (conserving land, environmental perspective, increase density little bit) passed at Acton Town Meeting.

5. Mission, Vision, and Values

- Reach out to other town DEI Commissions to learn and collaborate (Sunanda to work on in fall)

Closing Items

- March and April minutes approved (Motion Sandra, Seconded Zayd)
- Meeting adjourned (Motion David, Seconded Zayd)