

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m. June 12th, 2025

Present:

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

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

Special Business

1. Town Conservation Presentation by Ian Bergemann



Ian Bergemann, Community Conservation Specialist, presented a detailed overview of the activities that the Conservation Commission undertook during the last year. Commissioners provided several suggestions about how to approach Ian's work through a DEI lens. Ian eagerly accepted these ideas, and the Commission may provide additional recommendations at a future meeting.

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

- Juneteenth (June 19, 2-4 pm)
- Acton Pride Festival (June 21, 12-3 pm)
 - Jack and Melissa will be at the table
- Continue with same meeting time in the fall
 - Second Thursday@7pm
- Thank you Zayd for your contributions to the DEIC as you graduate from HS to begin college!!
- Reviewed DEIC ICE resource document to be posted on the DEIC website.
- Juneteenth Details
 - Start at Acton Congregational Church (ACC) and walk/drive to Acton Woman's Club)
 - Secured speaker: Ray Anthony Shephard (Writer and History Teacher)
 - Nancy Barnes, ACC member, will play piano and sing "Lift Every Voice"
 - Local tour guide, Amy Cole, will present local Acton history of abolition and tie in with Minister Woodbury at the Acton Woman's Club (AWC) and ACC
 - Diane Randolph Jones will present how horse culture connects with the celebration of Juneteenth
 - Refreshments: Juice and cookies sponsored by AWC
 - Melissa requested that Commissioners attend and volunteer since event sponsored by Commission
- Pride Festival Details
 - Melissa and Jack to staff the table.
 - Provide candy and bracelets.
 - Handouts and QR Codes available:
 - Recruitment flyer
 - LGBTQ+ resources
 - Immigration resources (since translated DEIC statement not yet available)

Closing Items

- May minutes approved (Motion Sunanda, Seconded Sandra)
- Meeting adjourned (Motion Diane, Seconded Zayd)
- DEI meetings to resume in September.