

Monthly Meeting
Hardwick Equity Committee
4-4-22

Present: Lucien Avery, Brad Smith, David O'Brien

Regrets: Chip Troiano, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane (family leave)

Convening and adjustment to agenda: Lucien welcomed those attending and the agenda was affirmed.

March minute approval: The minutes of March 7th meeting were reviewed and approved. (Editor's note: It was noted after the fact that the March meeting minutes had the incorrect date on the header.)

Public comment: None

Declaration of Inclusion: We tried to recall the latest with this issue. Lucien noted that there had been a recent email to Ceilidh from the organizers of the Declaration movement. We think the Selectboard has been asked to have the Town's name added to the list of participating towns. **Action:** we will clarify this with Ceilidh when she is back with us and determine if our committee needs to do anything additionally.

Training Options: We had a lengthily discussion about preparing for the Wednesday Zoom meeting with the representatives for the Peace and Justice Center from Burlington. We concluded with the suggestion that we will recommend to the Selectboard that we host the workshop titled: Seeing and Disrupting Racism. This would not replace the shorter one that we would like to do with Xusana Davis specifically for the select-board and Town staff members.

Action: meet for the Wednesday Zoom meeting and focus on the questions related to: numbers of attendees possible, potential dates and times, targeted audience (select-board members, Town employees, community allies?), costs.

Action: we also noted the need to come back to a discussion of a strategic planning process for our committee. Put on future agenda.

Update of the equality assessment tool: Lucien and David updated Brad about our meeting on drafting our own assessment tool. All agreed on the direction of have a simpler and briefer tool than the Barre Town one. After that meeting, David had agreed to take an attempt at a first draft, and apologized for not having that done for this meeting. **Action:** David made a commitment to get this draft out before our next meeting so all could have time to help edit and refine it at our May meeting.

Update regarding Town Website: Lucien gave an overview of what had been done to date to look at the Town's Website and see how it conforms to equity-appropriate language and issues. Discussion pursued about the Historical Society's document which is linked on the website and the current comment on the description of First People's life in this area. There is still concern of how it still might be inaccurate as to what is particularly known to be the Abenaki people's activity in the Hardwick area. David noted that the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) recently went through a similar discussion process of coming up with the correct description in developing the language for a historical marker that is being proposed for East Hardwick. **Action:** David agreed to send committee members the draft of EHNO's description. We agreed to revisit this topic, possibly reaching out to a representative of the Abenaki tribe. Place it on the agenda for next month.

Equity Bill in the Legislature: Chip was not able to attend this meeting so (**Action**) the update will be placed on next month's agenda.

New Business: There was none.

Adjournment and next meeting: Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 2nd, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: David M. O'Brien