

Equity and Diversity Committee - Town of Shelburne

PUBLIC MEETING Minutes

Monday, February 7, 2022 , 6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom & In-Person

Physical Location: Basement of Pierson Library, Old Town Hall (Historical Society)

Committee Members present: Erika Lea, Jennie Hoenigsberg, Wanda Morgan, Patricia Fontaine, Fabienne Boisvert-DeFazio, Michele Crowder, Mercedes Ortega, Josh Flore, Marcela Pino

Others present: Caitlin Waddick, Susan Kahn, KahIPI

Call to Order: Fabienne called the meeting to order at 6:04

Facilitator: Fabienne Boisvert-DeFazio

Minutes: Jennifer Hoenigsberg

Approval of Agenda for this evening

Motion to approve Agenda: Patricia

Second: Marcela

Favor: majority

Opposed: None

Approval of Minutes from: 1/17/21

Motion to approve Minutes: Michelle

Seconded: Wanda

Favor: majority

Opposed: None

Public comments: Erika mentioned the upcoming Candidate Forum on Tuesday, February 15

Discussions:

- Discussion re: complaint made to town by an individual regarding a local business. The town cc'd our Committee on an email to this individual and though

no details were provided, the alleged incident appeared to be racist in nature. How do we handle referrals from the town? Discussion of the possibility of keeping a record of complaints as a committee, some members in favor and others feeling this is outside purview of committee's work.. Discussion of need to have systems in place in the future and the need to remind town of mission statement of our committee so that they understand what our work is at this point. Discussion of potential for a letter as a response in the future from the committee (offering education, etc.), Discussion of what is the town's responsibility in terms of tracking complaints and responding. Discussion of liability of the committee. Discussion of the possibility that in the future we may get emails directly, do we create a communications subgroup? Michele will draft a response to the town and the group will review it before sending it to Town manager and assistant to the Town Manager, and Selectboard Chair

- Sharing resources with other town Committees - how do we do it? How do we educate other committees? How do we get more committees to look at their work through an equity lens? When relevant we need to share that we are speaking as a member of the public rather than on behalf of committee. Integrating an equity lens throughout town government and committees seems like work to do with the consultant and as a long term goal, something we are building towards.

Report from Sub-Groups

Member/Membership Update: None

Strategic Planning: Everyone read document and updated goals

Grant Subgroup: Finishing up application, will review a bit more then send to the town for their approval. Find statistic re: unhoused population in Shelburne to add to grant report.

VT Declaration of Inclusion: Over 30 towns and cities in Vermont, new website up from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce: <https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org>, drafting a memo to potentially send to the select board. Al Wakefield will come to the next committee meeting 2/21 to give a quick update.

Consultant: None

Community Engagement: Haven't met as a group yet

Agenda Items: Patricia will collect agenda items for next time

Patricia facilitating next meeting, Fabienne taking notes

Motion to adjourn: Josh, Erika seconded 7:07 meeting ended