

Dedham Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

Attendance: Diane Loud, Chris Kelly, Joe Borsellino, Michael Buckley, Margaret Matthew, Jim Kaufman, Diane Barry Preston, Margaret Adams

The Dedham HRC convened at 6:31 PM.

Dedham Coalition for Equity and Inclusion

Tracey Franklin presented information on Unite the Right, a hate group, which has posted several stickers in the town. Dedham Police Department asked that any stickers that are found be documented and reported.

Michael D. Buckley reports that other communities have also had postings of the stickers. Officer Buckley indicated that the placement of the stickers is not considered a hate crime but is considered hate speech. The definition of hate crime and hate speech is a federal definition.

The Dedham HRC discussed possible ways to reaffirm the message of inclusion in our community.

Meeting Minutes

December 2021 Meeting Minutes approved unanimously.

Cultural Arts Council Grant

The Dedham Human Rights Commission was awarded a grant \$1,600 for the performance by Veronica Robles. The performance would be part of a multicultural celebration this coming month. There is some interest in the town of funding a townwide cultural celebration.

Dedham Historical Society

The Dedham Historical Society is digitizing its records. This will allow members of the community to access and study the archives.

I Am Dedham

Chair Borsellino asked if each member of the committee could take on an upcoming show. The members of the HRC brainstormed ideas for future shows. Diane Loud will contact the Dedham Public Library for February. Jim Kaufman will reach out to Rashi School. Margaret Adams will reach out to Mariposa Child Care Center. Joe Borsellino will reach out to the Dedham Police and Fire Chief and Red Cross, and Dedham Historical Society. Chris Kelly will reach out to Joyce Ramble for March and also someone for the Flag Day Parade. Diane Barry Preston will reach out to some older adults in April including how they use the Senior Center. Liz O'Donnell could be another contributor for the fall.

Dr. King Program

The Dedham HRC debriefed the event. The time of a little less than an hour worked. There was no introduction that could help.

Meeting Dates

Meetings going forward will tentatively be held on the fourth Monday of the month. Joe Borsellino will contact Lianna Manos and Philjay to determine if the date worked. The next meeting date will be via Zoom.

Continuing Difficult Conversations

Each member of the Commission is thinking about strategies to share with town officials.

The Human Rights Commission adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Margaret Adams, Clerk Human Rights Commission