

West Tisbury Task Force Against Discrimination

Agenda for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 5 p.m.

The meeting will take place via Zoom. The Zoom link is below.

- Approval of March 7, 2023, minutes
- Guest speaker: Joel Weintraub, chair of NAACP MV's Legal Redress Committee
- Report on West Tisbury town hiring practices. Here, for discussion, is Loren's summary of his meeting with Leon Brathwaite, current chair of West Tisbury's personnel board:

“On April 18, I met for an hour with Leon Brathwaite, head of West Tisbury's personnel board. He has had a variety of other experiences that make him expert on the concerns of the West Tisbury Task Force Against Discrimination: for example, chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, staffer in the state office of affirmative action, and labor relations and civil rights manager at Stone & Webster Engineering.

“He thinks it is crucial to create a diverse pool of candidates for town positions—to institutionalize diversity. Town bodies can be encouraged to reach out for such candidates, not only advertise in the Vineyard media. He mentioned, for example, advertising in media aimed at people of color or specialized audiences—accounting publications if seeking candidates for a town accountant opening. To ensure a diverse pool of candidates for town positions, someone needs to be looking at the pool of candidates for each position before the hire is made. The personnel board is not doing that. He doesn't think the board is the ideal candidate for this role. He suggests that someone with standing in town government—Omar Johnson would have been an ideal candidate, Mr. Brathwaite says—should be appointed to the position of town diversity officer (in an earlier era the person would have been called affirmative action officer). He suggests the Task Force go to the select board and ask for inclusion language in town policies (if the language isn't already there) and recommend that the select board designate a person in town government as West Tisbury's diversity officer to review the pool of candidates prior to each town hire.”

- Update on Charter School project to honor five Vineyard women who went to North Carolina in 1964 to register African American voters
- Possible future NAACP MV event about microaggressions. Are we interested in co-sponsoring or being otherwise involved in planning?
- New business
- Announcements
- Adjourn

* * * * *

Zoom link for WT TFAD May 2, 2023, meeting, 5 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86195574246?pwd=bW1qYzIhZGdDMXNtYUNrMUlWsfdTUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 9557 4246

Passcode: 484467

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86195574246#,,, *484467# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,86195574246#,,, *484467# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd4ZieCu0D>