

Minutes, WT Task Force Against Discrimination, October 5, 2021

APPROVED October 19, 2021

Present: Omar Johnson, Susanna Sturgis, Alexandra Pratt, Loren Ghiglione, and Terry Kriedman

The meeting began a little after 5 p.m. via Zoom.

The focus was on planning our November 18 event.

After some discussion, we decided that this will be a virtual event, via Zoom. The situation with COVID-19 is still unsettled; at present, town board and committee meetings are all virtual, and we should follow suit. Zoom also offers more flexibility about the number of attendees. Susanna volunteered to be the tech person, letting people in from the waiting room, etc. (A backup might be good here.)

Omar clarified the purpose of the event: to introduce ourselves, make our mission statement clear, and provide an opportunity for townspeople to share their concerns and suggestions.

Susanna suggested that we invite Cindy Mitchell or another selectboard member to speak about how the task force came to be. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea.

The possibility was raised of reading the Diversity Statement at the beginning of the meeting. We had reservations about this and felt that the main purpose is to hear what people have to say. If she agrees to speak, Cindy can mention the statement's key points. A copy of it could be emailed to people when they sign up to attend. It can also be posted to the chat for people to download.

After Cindy's intro, we can each introduce ourselves, and after that we open it up for attendees to share their comments and concerns. A moderator would be helpful here, to focus the discussion, call on people, and tactfully cut people off if they go on too long or go off-topic. Dan Waters was suggested: if he can run town meeting, he could handle this!

Summary of format

- Moderator (Dan?) runs the meeting
- Introduction (Cindy?) about how the task force came to be
- We introduce ourselves
- Moderator provides guidelines for listening session
- Attendees share their thoughts, concerns, suggestions
- Some kind of closure

We need an email address for people to use for sign-up and to communicate with us afterward. Susanna will set one up on Gmail.

Assignments

Omar will talk to Cindy Mitchell

Susanna will talk to Dan Waters

Alexandra will bring a draft press release and flyer to our next meeting

Susanna will do social media PR

We'll meet again in two weeks, on **Tuesday, October 19, at 5 p.m.** This should be a short meeting and is mainly to check on our progress setting things up.

The meeting was adjourned a little after 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanna J. Sturgis

Recorder