

Minutes, WT Task Force Against Discrimination, September 7, 2021
(final draft prepared Jan. 29, 2024, from detailed notes taken Sept. 7, 2021)
APPROVED Feb. 6, 2024

Present: Omar Johnson, Susanna Sturgis, Loren Ghiglione, Terry Kriedman, Brad Cortez

The minutes for the August 3 meeting were approved. Susanna will sent them to Tara @ town hall for filing.

Planning for Fall Event

Because of Covid-19, it's still uncertain whether an in-person event is possible or whether it will be entirely on Zoom. Omar noted that if a venue was large enough to allow to allow socially distanced seating, that might work. Loren raised the possibility of a hybrid event: in-person with a Zoom option.

A suggestion was made to include a discussion of the Chilmark Community Center incident from this past summer. Loren thought this could be a trigger for discussion even if all the facts aren't known yet, and that we might be able to get the author(s) of the report on the incident to speak. Susanna noted this was an example of what we as a task force could do if something similar happens in West Tisbury.

As possible facilitators for our event Susanna mentioned Jill De La Hunt. Sandy Pimentel of the M.V. Diversity Coalition has connections along this line and might have recommendations. Susanna will contact both.

Suggested in-person venues included the school gym, the library, the Grange, and Ag Hall. Expected attendance will probably be in the 25–50 range. The general feeling was that it's best to avoid the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

What are we trying to accomplish with this event? Brad summed it up: "People don't know we exist. Primarily what we're trying to do is have a discussion, let people know we exist, introduce ourselves, what is our mission statement, what do we have to tell people about . . . Let's create a solid foundation for the community and let people know we exist."

Terry asked about marketing and PR: how to make sure people will show up. Susanna has basic competence in social media and doing press releases.

A date of Thursday, November 18 (a week before Thanksgiving), was tentatively settled on. The event would be via Zoom and would last about an hour, probably from 5:30 to 6:30. This will be primarily a way to introduce ourselves and hear what people are thinking. We'll ask town moderator Dan Waters if he can moderate. Details will be worked out at our October meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanna J. Sturgis
Recorder