

## **Minutes, West Tisbury Task Force Against Discrimination, Monthly Meeting, September 7, 2022**

**Approved Oct. 4, 2022**

**Present:** Omar Johnson, Loren Ghiglione, Susanna Sturgis, Terry Kriedman, Alexandra Pratt, Brad Cortez (meeting was held via Zoom)

The **August 2 minutes** were **approved**.

**Follow-up on Cindy Mitchell's Aug. 2 visit:** Susanna didn't have a chance to do this before this meeting so it was deferred till our October meeting and Omar will follow up.

**Outreach to prospective committee members suggested in survey:** We divvied up the names. We'll tell people they were mentioned in the survey and ask them whether they're interested and, if so, in what boards or committees. It's not entirely clear what happens next: do we give the names to the selectboard, and/or to the specific committees that get mentioned?

- Susanna: Deb Mayhew, Brenda Brathwaite
- Terry: Matt Merry
- Brad: John Harfarand (sp?), Sam Alley Jr.
- Alexandra: John Stanwood, Hunter Moorman
- Omar: will follow up with Cindy
- Loren: Carmen Wilson, Barbara Bellissimo

A list of employment and board/committee openings can be found [here](#). *[SJS note: The employment openings are long out of date, and there's no indication of when the board/committee openings were posted.]* A complete (?) list of boards and committees, with contact info, can be found [here](#).

**Press release about TFAD survey:** Loren will send out a draft to the rest of us. The possibility was raised of waiting till we can include the outcome of our contacting individuals who were suggested (see above). We can't discuss it as a group outside of a meeting, so if we have comments, send them to Loren alone.

**Possible project: Review town's personnel bylaws:** Susanna wants to do this. She thinks making a first pass through the bylaws shouldn't be that big a deal. She can flag points that we can follow up on. If it's too big a project, she'll come back for help. *[SJS (lack of) progress report: Funky eyesight has made close reading a chore so I'm putting this off till my left eye gets fixed -- I hope -- at the end of October.]*

**Possible project: Help organize a "What Makes WT Tick" type forum:** Alexandra says that the library can make this a library program. In 2020, pre-COVID, the intent was to offer childcare and Portuguese translation. Postcards were sent to all registered voters. The framework set up then would probably work now with minimal adjustments. *[SJS note: Loren sent us all copies of the document handed out at the 2017 forum. It features an organizational chart and brief descriptions of most of the town's boards and committees.]*

For timing, February or March was suggested, because people are starting to think about the Annual Town Meeting in April. We should avoid February school vacation.

Alexandra reported that in 2019/20, Doug Ruskin, Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand, Dan Waters, and others helped out. For our next meeting she'll write up a blueprint of what was done in 2019/20. She'll also check with Doug for any suggestions that were made last time.

**Announcements:** Susanna will be participating in "Seeing White on Martha's Vineyard," an eight-week program that starts with an in-person meeting at the Martha's Vineyard Museum on Saturday, Sept. 10. This is organized around "Seeing White," a 14-episode podcast released by Scene on Radio in 2017. The Racial Justice and Human Dignity Committee of We Stand Together has done the research to link events from Vineyard history to each episode. Susanna will report back to TFAD on how it goes.

**New Business:** Terry brought up a negative reference to the Task Force in an [Aug. 3, 2022, letter to the editor of the \*Martha's Vineyard Times\*](#), which focused on beach access in West Tisbury. She asked if we should respond. Omar noted that as health agent he is responsible for the beach, but since he doesn't live in town, he can't use it. Since discrimination on the basis of town residence is not a factor in the town's Diversity Statement, which led to the creation of the Task Force, we agreed that beach access is not within our scope and we don't need to respond to the letter.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m. It was noted that Yom Kippur ends at sundown on that day but no one objected to meeting then.

The meeting was **adjourned** at about 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanna J. Sturgis  
Recorder