

Minutes, West Tisbury Task Force Against Discrimination Meeting, January, 10 2023, 5 p.m.

Approved January 31, 2023

Present: Alexandra Pratt, Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Susanna J. Sturgis, Loren Ghiglione, Terry Kreidman, Ted Jochsberger

Absent with Regrets: Arielle Faria, Brad Cortez

The meeting was held via Zoom. Susanna chaired.

Previous Minutes (December 6, 2022)

Ted made a motion seconded by Loren to accept the minutes of December 6, 2022. **VOTE 6 YES 0 NO**

The first order of business was planning for the February 11, 2023 event. Alexandra reported on the proposed program for the event. Anticipated speakers are Jen Rand, Tara Whiting-Wells, Doug Ruskin and Dan Waters. Ms. Rand and Ms. Whiting-Wells will discuss Town procedures (Open meeting law, warrant articles, etc.). Mr. Ruskin will discuss issues concerning FINCOM. Mr. Waters will moderate the event. It was suggested that the presentations take no longer than 3 – 5 minutes.

Other speakers were suggested: Laura Silber (housing, the Martha's Vineyard Commission) and Brad Cortez (other constituencies). Other issues that might be included involve diversity (Loren's survey).

Advertising the program was discussed. This included a press release (MV Times, Vineyard Gazette); Flyers (bulletin boards around the Town – Post Office, Cronigs, Conroy's, etc.), the Library; MVY. Terry volunteered to help posting flyers. Loren will also contact the West Tisbury School with regard to advertising the event *via* the faculty, etc.

Other issues discussed were child care, refreshments, Portuguese translation.

Several suggestions for a title were proposed. As soon as one is agreed upon Alexandra will prepare a rough draft of the program.

Elaine reported on a program involving the West Tisbury Library and the Charter School among other groups. This program, (currently being developed), concerns five Vineyard women who, in 1964, traveled to Williamston, North Carolina to register voters. They were arrested and jailed and their commitment and bravery must be acknowledged.

Loren had two questions following up on Cynthia Mitchell's attendance at the December 6th meeting.

1. *Will there will be a follow up on the question of acknowledging that we live on what was once was once the land of the Wampanoag?*

(Based on the December 6th committee minutes her answer was that this would have to be decided but would be -- "good to have some sort of resolution on the town meeting floor."

2. *Did the personnel board formally review, prior to the hiring of John Rose, his resignation from the Oak Bluffs Fire Department in January 2018 amidst sexual harassment claims?*

(Based on the December 6th committee minutes her answer was that hiring is done by department, not by the personnel board. She also said that Mr. Rose was cleared of all charges in Oak Bluffs and the fire chief had multiple conversations with the Oak Bluffs town administrator. She further stated that "if your committee is looking for assurances that these things are properly screened and addressed when they come up, the answer is yes -- but not by the personnel board." Some committee members were uncomfortable with these responses. It was felt that the process was not very transparent.

Susanna reported that the Select Board has decided to follow the Task Force's recommendation to create a Facebook page. This would be a good way to get Town information to residents.

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned (Ted, seconded by Susanna) at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held January 31, 2023 *via* Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Jochsberger
Recorder, *pro tem*