

TOWN OF HAMILTON
MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
HAMILTON, MA

2021 JUL -2 AM 8:42

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Hamilton Human Rights Commission

DATE OF MEETING: APRIL 21,2021

MEETING LOCATION

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880860369?pwd=ajR0dWtLVjcxMFZyRXZjKzMzaTZjZz09> Meeting ID:
818 8086 0369 Passcode: 539349

Phone 929-205-6099

DATE OF ACCEPTANCE: June 16, 2021

Attendees: Town Manager Joe Domelowicz, Police Chief Russell Stevens, Student Member Maya Beach, Anne Brady, JoAnne Copeland, Christina Holz, Jamie Knudsen, Nancy Stehfest, Alaina Walsh.

Absent: Jared Hughes

Agenda items were taken out of order. For reference purposes the agenda item number is listed in parentheses.

1, Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Brady at 5:03 PM

2, (4) Update on Portal for submissions to HRC

Discussion: Chair Brady asked how the discussion should be handled in J.Hughes' absence. J. Knudsen suggested waiting to discuss until J.Hughes is present. C. Holz remarked the Wenham Human Rights Commission webpage has some interesting information J.Hughes may want to review.

Chair Brady recommended discussion be moved to next meeting.

3, (6) Indigenous Land Acknowledgment- "Land Acknowledgment In Hamilton-Wenham"

Presented by EJ Everett, HWRHS, member of the Social Justice Club and Anna Siedzik, President of the HWHRC.

Discussion: N. Stehfest asked if there were other communities who had adopted the Land Acknowledgment. A.Siedzik responded Springfield, Great Barrington, Salem and Winchester had created Land Acknowledgments. Chief Stevens thanked EJ Everett and the Social Justice Club for the presentation and asked if they had presented to the schools. EJ Everett responded the presentation is on the May 5th School Committee agenda. A.Siedzik explained the hierarchy of the Massachusetts Tribe as explained to her by Thomas Green, President of the Tribe.

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8, (3) Approve Minutes of 03-31-2021 Meeting

Discussion: Tabled approval of 03-31-2021 meeting minutes to next meeting, May 19, 2021.

9, (9) New Business

Discussion: Future Agenda Items

- Translation services- M Beach
- Assistance with developing education materials regarding new state holiday, Juneteenth. – TM Domelowicz. C Holz stated she had spoken with Juneteenth Association and they directed her to speak with A. Siedzik about plans. A. Siedzik offered to assist. Discussion of Juneteenth Flag Raising and Ceremony.
- Accreditation process for the Police Department-N. Stehfest

10. (10) Adjourn

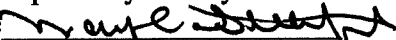
Motion: *To adjourn*

Motion made by: Jamie Knudsen

Motion seconded by: Chair Brady

Result: On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, the roll was called by Chair Brady.

Minutes prepared by: Nancy Stehfest

Signature 

Minutes reviewed by: HRC-06-16-2021

J. Copeland inquired if Thomas Green could speak with the HRC. A.Siedzik stated President Green is scheduled to participate in a webinar sponsored by the HWHRC in several months but Chair Brady could inquire with Thomas Green if he was available to speak with the HRC.

(2) Public Comment

Tosh Blake of Sagamore Street raised a legal concern regarding the Acknowledgement Statement and land claims.

J. Knudsen noted, the statement taken in context, does not indicate we are inhabiting someone else's land. Chair Brady stated Acknowledgment is a tribute to the tribe that once occupied the land. M. Beach noted the statement was framed as historical. Presenter A.Siedzik noted statement is framed as a philosophical statement and not a legal tenant per UN report of 2012.

Motion: *To support and elevate the presentation of Land Acknowledgment to the Board of Selectman.*

Motion made by: C. Holz

Motion seconded by: Chair Brady

Result: On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, the roll was called by Chair Brady.

4, (7) A discussion and vote on urging the Selectmen to waive the moratorium on the raising of flags in cases where the Federal, State or Town has issued a proclamation on the matter the flag represents

Discussion: J. Knudsen updated the Commission on the status of the Town of Hamilton's Flag Policy. N. Stehfest presented preliminary research on flag policy of other municipal entities. Chair Brady discussed the potential benefits of aligning the Flag Policy with government proclamations. General discussion about policy. Chief Steven's suggested flagpole be erected in Patton Park for non-governmental flags. Chief Steven's suggested lifting the moratorium on flag raising for month of June 2021 while the HRC works on policy development.

Motion: *To lift the moratorium and where a proclamation on the matter is present and put forth that to the BOS at the next BOS meeting.*

Motion made by: Chief Stevens

Motion seconded by: A. Walsh

Result: On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, the roll was called by Chair Brady.

5, (8) Hamilton Wenham Human Rights Coalition Requests

- a) **Pride flag raising at Town Hall from June 1-18**
- b) **Use of the flag holders on 1A for Pride flags from June 1-18**
- c) **Juneteenth flag raising at Town Hall from June 19-26**

Discussion: Chief Stevens noted (A) and (C) were covered in earlier motion. Regarding (B)- clarified the request for use of the holes in sidewalk to display flags.

Motion: *Recommend bring to BOS on May 3, 2021 the following request:*

- a) *Pride flag raising at Town Hall from June 1-18*
- b) *Use of the flag holders on 1A for Pride flags from June 1-18*
- c) *Juneteenth flag raising at Town Hall from June 19-26*

Motion made by: Jamie Knudsen

Motion seconded by: Chair Brady

Result: On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, the roll was called by Chair Brady.

6, (8d) Co-sponsorship and/or panelist participation in *Understanding Flag Meaning: From Black Lives Matter to the Thin Blue Line*

Discussion: A. Siedzik presented on the opportunity for the Town to participate as panelist and/or co-sponsor in the HWHRC planned event. Chief Stevens expressed support as an opportunity to educate.

Motion: *To Co-sponsorship and/or panelist participation in *Understanding Flag Meaning: From Black Lives Matter to the Thin Blue Line**

Motion made by: Jamie Knudsen

Motion seconded by: Chair Brady

Result: On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, the roll was called by Chair Brady.

N. Stehfest and J. Copeland expressed an interest in attending as a panelist. They will talk with each other about attending.

7, (5) BOS request to investigate and advise on Language Change to HRC Charge

Discussion: Chair Brady stated the BOS requested the HRC review language. M.Beach and C.Holz will work with Chair Brady to develop most inclusive language.