

**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: MAY 19, 2021

MEETING LOCATION

This meeting will be held virtually over zoom. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88689788398?pwd=VWJvemFMUmpTMmxDM3NmNnZOUEJQQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8978 8398 Passcode: 752349 One tap mobile +19292056099

DATE OF ACCEPTANCE: June 16, 2021

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

Attendees: Town Manager, Joe Domelowicz,, Student Member, Maya Beach, Anne Brady, Joanne Copeland, Christina Holz, Jared Hughes, Jamie Knudsen, Nancy Stehfest, Alaina Walsh (joined at 5:21pm).

Absent: Police Chief Russell Stevens

1 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Brady at 5:05pm

2 Public Comment for Issues not on Agenda

Jeremy Gross, a member of the Wenham Human Rights Committee, introduced himself as the designated liaison to the Hamilton Human Rights Commission. Chair Brady welcomed J. Gross.

3 Minutes of 03-31-2021 and 04-21-2021 Meetings

Discussed edits to the 04-21-2021 meeting minutes.

Motion made by: J. Knudsen

To approve the minutes from March 31, 2021

Motion seconded by: J. Hughes

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

4 (9) Police Accreditation Process

On behalf of Chief Stevens, Lt. Scott Janes gave an overview of the accreditation process the Hamilton Police Department will be undergoing the last week in June. This will be the third accreditation review process with the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. In 2012, the Hamilton Police Department became the 48th fully accredited police agency in the state. J. Hughes asked about mental health training offered. Lt. Janes spoke of collaborative efforts underway to offer mental health training. T.M Domelowicz stated the Hamilton Police department process to review traffic stop data to look for bias.

5 (7) Discussion of 05-05-2021 School Committee Meeting events and possible actions

TM Domelowicz requested Lt. Janes give an update on investigation. Chair Brady gave a brief overview of occurrence. Lt. Janes indicated a draft report had been completed and while the language used was extremely offensive, there did not appear to have been a crime committed. The School Resource Officer was working with the principle on the matter. Principal Tracy had recorded an announcement regarding the event, to be played by teachers. M. Beach stated not all teachers played the recording. Chair Brady stated the recording was not sent to remote learners.

TM Domelowicz suggested the HHRC work in collaboration with WHRC to draft a response. J. Gross said he would raise the issue with the WHRC. C.Holz shared an example of another town's response to a similar issue. C. Holz, M. Beach and A. Walsh volunteered to serve on a sub committee to work on response.

6 (4) Update on Portal for submissions to HRC on town page

J. Hughes gave update on development process. Reviewed content on the WHRC page. TM Domelowicz gave status update on web page technical updates. Discussion among members of content.desired for web page. J. Gross stated WHRC set up web form to not require all fields to protect the confidentiality of writer. Also discussed collecting information other than complaints and organizing data collected on spreadsheet. J. Hughes gave review of content requirements based on discussion.

7 (5) Update on research into BOS request to investigate and advise on language change to HRC charge

Chair Brady said the HRC was asked to consider the addition of "women" and "atheist" to the charge. C. Holz shared research on inclusive language. M. Beach presented her research on the subject as well. Discussion of inclusive language and adding a definition section to the charge. TM Domelowicz discussed timing of presentation to the BOS.

Motion made by:

J. Hughes

To authorize the subcommittee for presentation of our findings on the June 7th meeting and provide recommendations to the Board of Selectpeople at The June 7th meeting.

Motion seconded by:

J. Knudsen

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

Motion made by: J. Knudsen

With regard to the word "atheists," we don't include the word "atheists" in the policy document, but there be a footnote or way of explaining that the word "religion" includes "atheists" and the lack of any system of belief.

Motion seconded by: J. Hughes

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

Motion made by: A. Walsh

Not to include "women".

Motion seconded by: J. Copeland

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

8 (6) Update on last BOS meeting attended and votes taken

Chair Brady provided the following updates. It was voted and approved the Pride flag will fly at Town Hall and Patton Park. The Juneteenth Flag will fly at Town Hall and Patton Park. The HHRC will advise the BOS on the Flag Policy that will go beyond June. N. Stehfest updated on Flag Policy research. Chair Brady stated HHRC will need to decide how to advise the BOS and develop flag raising procedures.

A. Walsh, J. Hughes and A. Brady volunteered to serve on the Flag Raising Committee. TM Domelowicz will be responsible for operations and also requested he be kept informed so an invitation can be extended to the BOS members.

J. Knudsen and N. Stehfest will work on the development of Flag Policy.

9 (8) Discussion of Translation Needs/Services around town and what HHRC can do

Chair Brady brought up the web-based translation service offered by gloucesterconnection.org. M. Beach suggested the conversation be tabled until next meeting.

10 Reminder: Event, Panel Understanding Flag Meaning: From Black Lives Matter to the Thin Blue Line 05/26

N. Stehfest and J. Copeland will be participating from the HHRC.

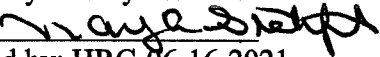
11, New Business

M. Beach asked about the procedures for “in-person” meetings. TM Domelowicz stated in-person meetings are due to resume with the end of the Public Health Emergency. Members discussed the possibility of changing the day and time of HHRC meetings.

12, Adjourn

Motion made by: Chair Brady moved for adjournment.
Motion seconded by: J. Knudsen seconded the motion

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

Minutes prepared by: Nancy Stehfest
Signature 
Minutes Approved by: HRC-06-16-2021