



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

MEETING NOTES

Date, Time, Location:

December 14, 2022 @ 6:30 P.M., Town Hall & Remote through ZOOM

Meeting Overview:

1. Approval of Prior Meetings
2. Vacancy
3. Martha Reed- COA Director
4. Black History Month Planning
5. Brainstorm Donation Drive for gift account
6. Reporting Human Rights Violations to Belonging Committee via website
7. Police Reporting- Officer Penha

Old Business

10. Old-Time Holiday - Recap
11. Adopt a Stop Sign - Commission on Disability- Update
12. Personnel Policy - Crown Policy
13. Items not previously Anticipated/Board Member Comments
14. Adjourn

-Key-

BOLD = Issue being discussed

- Notes, indentations for more notes
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Member Attendance (8):

- Kylie Bateman, Jessica Fidalgo, Greg Weider, Laura Barillaro, Eryn Spencer, Cam Durant, Leon Correy
- Absent; Rachel Medeiros, Jill Sullivan, Officer Jerome Penha

Town of Fairhaven & Guests:

- Martha Reed-COA Director

Meeting called, 6:33PM

PAST MINUTES: Oct 12, 2022, November 9, 2022

Motion to pass meeting minutes made by Jessica, seconded by Kylie. Roll Call vote passed

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

Chairperson Welcome & Media Notification

- Jessica calls the meeting to order, reads Media Notification & welcomes everyone to the Belonging Committee meeting.

- We have a quorum present (Attendance above).

Vacancy

- We have one vacancy on Committee, although it seems there is a someone who sent a letter of interest to the Selectboard and they will be on their next agenda

Martha Reed - COA Director

- Martha shares information on the Council on Aging mission as well as services they have available to seniors (age 60+, which is 25% of Fairhaven's population). Open to residents of other towns as well. Only resident only services are Free AARP Tax filing program , transportation services (over 60 needs a ride to medical appointments or shopping). Programs offered are based on community needs and what they want. A lot of things are social in nature. There are also legal services and the SHINE program to look at insurance options. Basic needs, housing applications, SNAP, community food bank program. Wellness programs available. Resources are on a brochure, town website, and by social media. Social Day coming back \$40 a day, some insurance will cover this, and there is funding for low income available. Memory Cafe, Single supper, LGBTQ Supper night.
- Discussion with the board and Martha about working together and needs of the COA.

Black History Month Planning

- Discussion on Black History month planning, possible event at senior center. Speakers and/or dinner. Would be a good idea to start a speaker series that we have spoken about in the past on something we would like to accomplish. Contact Buy Black NB for information on contacts as well. Promoting Black Owned Businesses via social media. Cam can contact people for events. Eryn will reach out to her network for gamers, on a speaker series or talk about their communities and experiences.

-Leon sent the name for Renee Ledbetter. The new NAACP local president, and Fairhaven resident.

Brainstorm Donations Drive for Gift Account

- Sensory Boards are generally a hit and maybe accepting donations for these. Will check in with accounting to make sure we understand fundraising.
- Belonging Committee can not write a check or give funds to a charitable donation but we would be able to purchase an item that is of need if there is a direct need of Fairhaven residents. If a future scholarship program were to be set up, a request to the selectboard would be made for a special trust account.
- Asking for a donation when possible for using Changing table, sensory tent, nursing stuff.

Reporting of Human Rights Violations on Belonging Committee Website

- Interest in possibly having a reporting space. We will have to look into more municipalities like ours and how they handle this.

Police Reporting - Officer Penha

- Working with Officer Penha and FPD to inform the Belonging Committee on calls or reports that may relate to our mission. Working to improve communication with the Police and relationships. The Chair will reach out to Chief Myers.

Old Business

Old-Time Holiday - Recap

- Kylie and Jess present for an event in the East Room. There was a lot of traffic through the room and conversations. Set up was a long table set up for crafts, cards, and coloring. And at the entrance and exit door of the room were the 6 holiday exhibit boards; Diwali, Lunar New Year, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yule, Christmas. We had a tree in the hallway where we hung ornaments that were made. We are donating all those & the cards to Our Lady Haven Nursing home along with some throw blankets that were donated for a drive Jess had planned but ran out of time to initiate. In the future we can reuse,

upcycle the boards for future years. There was a lot of engagement and excitement to see the different holidays and share stories. It was a successful event, next year we may see about a different set up for visibility. Ask for a table in the auditorium for the holidays, still use the East room for crafting and card writing as that was a big hit too and we get to uplift our elderly community members.

Adopt a Stop Sign - Disability on Commision - Update

- BPW will adopt one stop. Some issues on priority are still being figured out.

Personnel Policy - Crown Policy

- Policy is written regarding respecting indigenous hair, hair types, styles. Requires businesses and employers to update their policies regarding dress code.

Items not Previously Anticipated/Board Member Comments

- Laura asks about youth centers in town for youth. Or if a neighboring group has any programs that could come into town. - We can look into it. Black Girl Magic event Dec 17th.
- Huttleston Marketplace- having changing table available there. Possibly setting up 1x a month for a tent on theme. Would need team work for these events and possible put up/take down.
- Attended a TTAR (Tri-Town Against Racism) meeting, networked with them and look forward to partnering on future projects.

Next Meeting: Jan 18th meeting at 6:30pm (FairhavenTV asked to switch date because of multiple other meetings on the 11th.)

Motion to end meeting made by Jessica, seconded by Eryn, Roll call vote passed unanimously.

Meeting ended 7:50PM

