

Town of Boxborough
Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Conducted on Zoom
March 30, 2021

PRESENT: Peishan Bartley, Member; John Fallon, Member; Wes Fowlks, Member; Lovingsky Jasmin, Chair; Lakshmi Kaja, Member; Nora Michnovetz, Member; Amy Osenar, Member; Mary Sullivan, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

ABSENT: Olivia Jones, Member; Song Issah, Member

Agenda

- Minutes from Feb 17th
- Minutes from Feb 24th
- Discuss the shooting in Atlanta and the dramatic rise in attacks on the Asian community
 - Create a draft condemning racist acts and attacks against Asian descent in America
- Discuss and approve the DEIC introductory letter draft
 - Assign or create a subcommittee to work on current incidents occurring before each meeting
- Update on the surveys
- Presentation for town meeting (draft or approve)

At 7:04 PM, Jasmin called the meeting to order.

At 7:06, Fallon moved to approve the DEIC's minutes from February 17th. Seconded by Kaja.

Roll call vote: Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Jasmin – Aye, Michnovetz – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Osenar – Aye, Fowlks -- Aye
Approved 8-0

At 7:07, Fallon moved to approve the DEIC's minutes from February 24th. Seconded by Fowlks.

Roll call vote: Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Jasmin – Aye, Michnovetz – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Osenar – Aye, Fowlks -- Aye
Approved 8-0

The committee then began to discuss the spike in anti-Asian hate crimes. The members feel devastated and hurt by these attacks.

The members found the Boxborough Selectboard's drafted statement on anti-Asian racism thoughtful and valuable.

The committee then began to draft and discuss what they would want in a statement condemning anti-Asian Racism.

At 7:31, Fowlks moved to authorize Bartley, Michnovetz, and Osenar to edit and approve a statement condemning anti-Asian racism. Seconded by Fallon.

Approved on 04/28/2021

Roll call vote: Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Jasmin – Aye, Michnovez – Aye, Osenar – Aye, Fowlks -- Aye
Approved 7-0

Bartley updated the Sargent Memorial Library's progress with the Library's Transforming Communities program. The Library has been approved to hold an anti-racist training workshop in May, and a community conversation in June regardless of the Library's approval for the grant.

The committee then moved on to review and edit the following introductory email draft for Jasmin to send to other Boxborough committees and departments.

"To the other boards and committees of Boxborough,

My name is Lovingsky Jasmin. I am the chair of the newly formed Boxborough Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC). On behalf of the DEIC, we are excited to work with other committees and departments to make Boxborough as much of a welcoming, inclusive and equitable place for all residents as possible. One of the assets of the committee is we have very diverse membership, allowing for many different perspectives. We hope this can be utilized as a resource. We've begun researching methods to increase awareness and diversity in town, such as education, events and advocacy to other town boards.

Our meetings occur about once a month, and we welcome anyone to join. If you'd like to attend a meeting, our Zoom links and agendas can be found on the town website.

We look forward to working together!

Lovingsky Jasmin

Committee members:

Wes Fowlks; John Fallon; Peishan Bartley; Lovingsky Jasmin; Nora Michnovez; Lakshmi Kaja; Amy Osenar; Song Issah; Olivia Jones; Mary Sullivan"

At 8:17, Fallon moved to approve Jasmin to send the above drafted introductory DEIC email to other Boxborough committees and departments. Seconded by Bartley.

Roll call vote: Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Jasmin – Aye, Michnovez – Aye, Osenar – Aye, Fowlks -- Aye
Approved 7-0

Osenar updated the DEI survey. Bartley, Jones, Osenar and Michnovez created a draft for the survey, using the Acton DEIC's survey as a template, and requested the committee members review it.

Approved on 04/28/2021

The committee then began discussing the town meeting and the presentation of the DEIC's article. The members predict the DEIC's article may be presented towards the end of town meeting. The committee considered which member should present, and decided to make final decisions at their next meeting.

Fallon advised keeping the presentation relatively short and direct.

Michnovez and Fallon offered to work on creating a presentation. Fowlks offered to assist if needed.

The committee then decided on the next meeting date of Wednesday, April 28 at 7 pm via Zoom.

At 8:51, Fallon moved to adjourn. Seconded by Bartley.

Roll Call Vote: Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Jasmin – Aye, Michnovez – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Osenar – Aye, Fowlks -- Aye
Approved 7-0