

Town of Boxborough  
Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee  
Regular Session Meeting Minutes  
Conducted via Zoom  
April 24, 2023  
Approved June 28, 2023

**PRESENT: Nora Michnovez, Chair; Lakshmi Kaja, Member; Mary Sullivan, Member; John Fallon, Member; Peishan Bartley, Member; Wes Fowlks, Clerk; Amy Osenar, Member**

At 7:54 PM, Nora called the meeting to order noting the presence of a quorum.  
Present by roll call: Michnovez, Sullivan, Kaja, Fallon, Bartley, Fowlks, Osenar

**Minutes:**

a) It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 25, 2023.  
Roll Call Vote: Michnovez – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Fowlks – Abstain, Osenar - Aye

**Survey and calendar presentation to the Board:**

Fowlks updated the board on the upcoming Town Meeting Warrant Article regarding moving to a cloud provider, and informed the committee that with Google Calendar the Town could better integrate the Calendar that was created by the committee.

**DEIC future update:**

Fallon mentioned to the committee that since the committee was formed 3 years ago, all of the terms were to expire at the same time, with the upcoming fiscal year end in June 2023. He suggested that the committee suggest/request the Select Board to stagger the upcoming re-appointments to the committee. The Committee agreed with the idea and Fowlks said that he would make the request on behalf of the committee.

The Committee also discussed if it was worthwhile to continue the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee or whether it was a good idea to ask the Select Board to review if the Select Board wished to dissolve the Committee. After deliberation it was decided that the Committee has added value to the town through the survey and the calendar, additionally the other value that the Committee brings is that is one of the most diverse committees in Boxborough with diversity in numerous dimensions.

The Committee also recognized that the purpose of the committee and the strength of the committee is through advocacy and recommendation to other boards, committees, and departments in town. Osenar commented that there is no current way to deal with Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) issues in town, and that could be something the committee investigate what that might look like for Boxborough and advocating for such a service. Sullivan also suggested that we invite the Director of Social Services, Town Administrator, Police and Fire Chief to a meeting to introduce them to the Committee and ask if there was a way the administration would like to work with the Committee. The Committee agreed this would be a good idea and Fowlks was tasked with inviting the department heads to the upcoming meeting.

**State Flag Change:**

Michnovez informed the Committee of the proposal within Massachusetts to change the state flag. She noted that Acton took up such action. Information on this initiative can be found at <https://changethemassflag.com>. After discussion the Committee decided it would be good to petition the Select Board to request a Sense of the meeting warrant article at an upcoming Town Meeting.

Fowlks moved to request the Select Board add a Warrant article to an upcoming Town Meeting. Seconded by Fallon.

Roll Call Vote: Michnovetz – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Fowlks – Aye, Osenar – Aye  
*Motion passes unanimously.*

At 8:41pm it was moved by Fowlks, seconded by Fallon, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Michnovetz – Aye, Kaja – Aye, Sullivan – Aye, Fallon – Aye, Bartley – Aye, Fowlks – Aye, Osenar – Aye

**List of documents/exhibits:**

Draft minutes DEIC meeting of January 25, 2023