



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

POST OFFICE BOX 427  
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630  
Office Contact: 508-375-6611  
[www.barnstablecountyhrc.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhrc.org)

**Minutes of BC-HRAC Meeting**

**Monday, October 7th, 2019**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Harborview Room - County Complex, Rte 6A, Barnstable village**

**HR-Advisory Commission Members:**

\*Kate Epperly, Vice Chair  
\*Patricia (Trish) Oshman  
\*Alan Milsted, Chair  
\*David Schropfer  
\*Paul Thompson  
(Four vacancies)

**Members of former Town Representation Council:**

\*Theresa Santos, Barnstable  
Dominique Rapoza, Bourne  
Gail Wilson, Mashpee  
Pastor Brenda Haywood, Provincetown  
Alyssa Sidal, Sandwich  
Pat Armstrong, Yarmouth

**BC-Human Rights Coordinator:**

\*Deb'orah Battles

**BC-HRAC Assembly of Delegates Liaison:**

\* Dr. Brian O'Malley, Delegate for Provincetown

\* Indicates those present for the meeting.

**Also present:**

**Community Members – Guests accompanying Member Patricia Oshman** - Angelica (Alec) Oshman and Sarah Oshman regarding the GLOW Panel (10-23) & Human Rights Academy (10-30) Events.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 5:09 pm by Alan Milsted, Chairperson. Those present introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of Minutes** of last Meeting, September 9th, 2019. Kate Epperly, Vice Chair, made a Motion to Accept. Motion seconded by Member Patricia Oshman, Minutes Accepted Unanimously.

3. **Public Comments-Theresa Santos**, provided information from PFAS-REACH in collaboration with Silent Spring Institute, regarding a Children's Health Study concerning preschool-aged children in Hyannis and chemicals in drinking water.

4. **HRAC Monthly Meeting Time Change Proposal.** Member David Schropfer stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month continues to be a conflict for some members. After discussion of various days/times, David proposed meetings to change to the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday** of the month beginning at **5:00 pm** for the next (3) Monthly Meetings until anticipated newly installed members join the HRAC in January. Suggested Dates and Times: **Mondays - November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 beginning at 5:00 pm**

A Motion was made by Chairman, Alan Milsted, to accept the proposed schedule and was Seconded by Kate Epperly - The Motion was Approved Unanimously.

*There was brief discussion regarding an upcoming meeting, where Member Schropfer will be out of town, as to whether it might be permissible to participate 'Remotely'. Members felt that if there were a Quorum present with new members, that might be possible; the Coordinator was asked to seek, clarification of County meeting guidelines.*

**5. Fall Human Rights Academy (HRA-October 30<sup>th</sup>):** Member Trish Oshman reported that the HRA Planning Committee enjoys student involvement and is working on the Presentation Format and details. Alec Oshman read a moving Sonnet that she composed and plans to read at the HRA presentation. The Program is evolving, and the Committee plans to meet one more time prior to the HRA. Trish relayed that John Reed of NAACP/Zion Church, through the "Friends of the HRC" has agreed to pay for the Breakfast and students will bring their own brown bag lunches. Schools are still confirming participation. The Committee needs help with Set-Up. Deb Battles, HR Coordinator, relayed that Signage has been ordered and is expected to arrive prior.

**6. Process for Appointment of Advisory Commission Members-update:** Deb Battles, Human Rights Coord. Reported there has been good publicity, particularly through The Enterprise News through an on-line article which she was interviewed for. Ms. Battles reported the process is moving forward according to schedule. Applications will be reviewed 10-15-19 by Screening & Interview Committee, with Interviews to be scheduled for 10-22-19 for selected candidates. Vice Chair Epperly offered to be a "Greeter" for applicants coming in for Interviews.

**7. Human Rights Day Awards & Breakfast Planning: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.** Theresa Santos provided an updated Flyer and summary of key dates and tasks. The Venue and location will be the Hyannis Golf Club, Hyannough Road. Deb reported the PSA requesting nominations for Cornerstone and Rosenthal Awards with a Deadline of October 16<sup>th</sup>, has been published by several media outlets and was again referred to in an article in The Enterprise and posted in the Human Services Newsletter. She also updated the forms for the Barnstable County Website and uploaded them, with assistance from Sonja Sheasley, BC Communications Coordinator, for Awards Nominations. Deb also has been forwarding the PSA to known mailing lists of organizations for response.

There was a question regarding the two Awards and Ms. Santos explained that the 'Rosenthal' Award is more for a 'Public Service' type group involved with Human Rights, where the 'Cornerstone' Award is for an Individual. After 10-16, the Nominations will be forwarded to Ms. Santos and Members Thompson and Epperly, who will review, confer and make recommendations by telephone. Chair Milsted made a motion to accept this process, with Member Schropfer Seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Citations would, in accordance with past practice, be requested from elected representatives of Barnstable County at County, State and federal levels, plus individual towns as appropriate, by Members Epperly, Schropfer and Milsted; Theresa Santos undertook to request them from the Town of Barnstable. If mailed, documents could be sent to Theresa Santos c/o Barnstable Town Hall.

It was suggested that Jack Yunits, Barnstable County Administrator, again be a Speaker at the Event. This would need to be confirmed.

Ms. Santos requested a **“Save the Date” Announcement** go out to HRAC Members to distribute to selected parties in advance to begin a guest list. Deb agreed to assist by getting the Announcement out by 10/23 or 10/24, before her impending vacation.

**Defraying Costs** - Member Thompson relayed that John Reed of the “Friends of the HRA”, has again agreed to fund the Breakfast, however, he has requested that he would like participants to be asked to donate \$ 10.00 to help defray costs. There was general discussion of charging participants, as this had not been done previously. ~~However,~~ After discussion of other groups policies on events, it was felt that requesting a small Donation to help defray costs would be acceptable for attendees. Member Thompson made a motion to place a notation at the bottom of Invitations, “\$10.00 Donation Requested”, Member Oshman Seconded this and the Motion was approved. Theresa agreed to print out the Invitations. Further discussion of logistics will be necessary at next meeting.

**8. Assembly of Delegates Liaison.** Delegate Dr. Brian O’Malley followed up on a suggestion previously made regarding presenting an additional Award at the Annual Human Rights Day Awards Breakfast. Rep O’Malley is the Chair of the “Tim Team”, a group which has been organized in honor of Timothy McCarthy, who passed recently. Tim was very active on human rights issues and worked in Uganda filming conditions. The group has raised a substantial amount of funds and wishes to present a \$ 1,000 **“Human Rights Champion”** award. There was discussion of who might present the award and Delegate O’Malley requested 10 minutes in the program to present the Award to a recipient and give them an opportunity to speak. He relayed he would have further information by mid-November for the HRAC.

Vice Chair Epperly made a Motion the HRAC accept the addition of the **‘Human Rights Champion’ award** to the Annual Human Rights Day Breakfast program, and Member Schropfer Seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

**9. “No Place for Hate” Kick Off – October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 2-4 at CCCC.** Members Kate Epperly and Paul Thompson provided updates on this interfaith forum. There was great publicity on this in the Cape Cod Times, and Kate passed out colored flyers for distribution. Light refreshments will be provided. HRAC Members were encouraged to spread the word. Deb reported she has placed info on the Barnstable County Website and in the Human Services Newsletter, along with forwarding the flyer to various agencies around Cape Cod.

**10. Recent Local “Hate” Crimes - A** discussion was had regarding a recent article in the Cape Cod Times, “Swastikas painted on Sandwich High Parking Spaces”, and whether the HRAC should become involved. Members expressed concern, and Coordinator Deb Battles relayed that a call had been placed to Superintendent Gould offering the support of the HRAC. Member Oshman also requested an update regarding an issue that occurred at Sturgis West last month. Chair, Alan Milsted & Human Rights Coord, Deb Battles reported that the HRAC offered to assist Sturgis, however, the school administrator felt there was no need for intervention. There was general discussion regarding whether the HRAC should become involved with incidents in the community without a direct request from those involved. It was decided no further action would be taken regarding the incidents at this time, unless requested.

**11. National Coming Out Day: GLOW & Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) – Weds. October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 – 8:30 pm (Panel 6-7:30) at St. Barnabas Church, Falmouth** – Member Oshman provided updates regarding a Falmouth wide LGBTQIA Panel which will present a discussion called “Decoding the Alphabet Soup” to talk about related issues and help educated the public.

**12. Massachusetts Association of Human Rights and Relations Commission (MAHRC) Forum** Member David Schropfer provided updates on this event focusing on Human Rights and the Law Enforcement community. The forum will be held in Boston on **Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. Member Schropfer has offered to provide transportation, and Members Milsted & Thompson are planning to accompany him.

**13. County Updates:** Human Rights Coordinator, Deb Battles, provided a brief update on September activities and outreach efforts to community agencies to promote the various HRAC activities scheduled for October. She continues to update the HRC portion of the County Website to reflect the new Ordinance and various HRAC activities, which is a work in progress. She will place the new Meeting Dates on the Website. Deb stated the County has been very supportive, and she now has a County issued Cell phone, along with Laptop. Both HRAC phone #'s and email addresses are automatically forwarded for easy access while working in the community. Deb briefly mentioned that the County will be involved with **Census 2020** and special populations and immigrants may need some focus by the HRAC.

***Deb thanked the HRAC Members for all the work they are doing and reminded them she will be away and unavailable from October 28<sup>th</sup>, through November 1<sup>st</sup>, returning to the office on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.***

**12. New Business.** No discussion.

**Meeting Adjourned,** Upon the departure of Member Trish Oshman, the meeting ceased to have a quorum., and was, accordingly adjourned at 6:30 pm by Alan Milsted.

**Next meeting scheduled: Monday, November 18th, 5:00, Harborview Room, BC Complex**

**(NOTE New Meeting Schedule, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month!)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb'orah Battles,  
BC-Human Rights Coordinator