MINUTES  
Monday, December 16, 2019  
East Wing Conference Room  
County Complex, Barnstable

Commissioners:  
* Alan Milsted, Chair  
* Kate Epperly, Vice Chair  
* Dave Schropfer  
* Patricia Oshman  
* Paul Thompson (late arrival)  
* indicates those present for the meeting

County Clerk, Janice O’Connell officiated over the swearing in of members as follows:  
Re-Appointment  
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County Clerk, Janice O’Connell officiated over the swearing in of members as follows:  

Re-Appointment    Alan Milsted  
Re-Appointment    Kate Epperly  
Re-Appointment    Patricia Oshman  
Appointment       Morgan Peters  
Appointment       Wendy Bierwirth  
Appointment       Katie Riconda  
Appointment       Jeanne Morrison

New appointments in effect as of January 2020 – Congratulations to all members!

Welcome and introductions  
Also present: Cole Silva, an applicant for the Coordinator position

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm with the arrival of Paul Thompson

Public comment – none

Minutes of October 7, 2019

Motion duly made by Trish Oshman, seconded by Dave Schropfer to accept the minutes of October 7, 2019 as submitted.  
So voted unanimously

Coordinator’s report  
- Chair identifies only one upcoming item on the submitted report – CC PATH meeting of 12/17/19 and inquires as to whether any member is available to attend.

HR Breakfast update provided by Town of Barnstable liaison, Theresa Santos  
- A special thanks goes out to Scott Allen and his staff at the Terrace Room for providing excellent atmosphere, food and accommodations. Final count charged was for 101.  
- Items to think about and / or address for 2020 event include: Schedule timing; announcing breakfast is ready; head count capacity; sending table materials electronically so as not to waste paper, yet make those materials available to all; tap into local folks for our guest speaker as opposed to seeking someone off
Cape; changing the name of the event to International Human Rights Day Awards Program which might attract additional sponsors.

- A flash drive was provided to the Chair with the entire list of invitees, broken down into categories of award recipients; members past and present; all with the intent to create email distribution lists

Motion duly made by Alan Milsted, seconded by Kate Epperly conveying thanks and appreciation to Theresa Santos for a successful program.
So voted unanimously

MA Human Rights Coalition update provided by Dave Schropfer
- Attendance was very small, only 55 in attendance
- Meetings are usually held at Medford City Hall from 9:30-11:30am; MA HRC contact Neil Osborne nosborne@medford-ma.gov
- It was suggested to the group that a meeting be held within Barnstable County; HRAC members very much in favor of this
- MA HRC is also looking into meeting at locations in Western MA as well.

Coordinator update provided by Chair Milsted
- Deb Battles officially resigned as of 12/13/19; all members send best wishes
- Job has been posted and is open until 12/20/19
- Interviews will be conducted by County Administrator, Jack Yunits, Human Resources Director, Justyna Marczak, and Director of Human Services, Beth Albert; previous coordinator interviews were conducted by HRAC members
- Members expressed concern and request clarification in regards to the role and structure of the Coordinator in regards to reporting to the County and the HRAC; Chair Milsted advised members that the County Administrator will be meeting with parties so that we are all receiving the same message and can move forward in a positive and productive manner
- A tentative Administrative Assistant position at 10 hours per week was also discussed and approved

Human Rights Academy (HRA) update provided by Trish Oshman and the Chair
- The new Head of School of Cape Cod Academy (CCA) has confirmed commitment to continuing to host the HRA; two dates have been identified by staff at CCA; either April 14th or 16th
- It is the goal to reach out to all schools; encouraging participation and communication
- HRAC members will be encouraged to reach out to schools directly to assist in increased participation
- Morgan Peters suggested aligning the HRA with the focus areas identified within MCAS
- It is also a goal to move the onus of the HRA away from Cape Cod Academy and back onto the HRAC; however, we all are extremely grateful for their support in keeping the HRA up and running during challenging times.

Report of the Vice Chair
- A member of the Steering Committee for Barnstable No Place for Hate: Mandate received to offer training on Active Bystanders which will be held in Falmouth on 1/11/2020; both Kate and Jeanne will be attending
- Member of the Council of Churches Migrant and Refugee Committee; the committee’s purpose is to foster communication in our community
- The Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security has scheduled a hearing for 1/24/20, for the proposed Safe Communities Act S.1401 which seeks to protect the civil rights and safety of all MA residents; and protect due process for all.
- Kate also reiterated that the role of the HRAC is to advocate and educate

Member updates
- Paul Thompson: volunteered, as a member of the Steering Committee for Barnstable No Place for Hate, to reach out to churches and how they can connect with the HRAC
- Trish Oshman: creating events with Cape Cod Community College around affirmative action
• Friends of HRC – Alan provided background for new members; noting that their 501(c)(3) status will need to be updated to HRAC; if any member is in contact with Friends members encourage them to attend an HRAC meeting; Paul Thompson will communicate with John Reed and request an update on the status of funds balance and availability
• Assembly of Delegates liaison Brian O’Malley – Alan provided background on his role, position and support to the HRAC
• Dave Schropfer: Shared how an incident with Town Rep, Rev. Brenda Haywood and the CCRTA, effected positive change with support of the HRAC within the CCRTA
• Jeanne Morrison: Requested information on past strategic planning process and status
• Katie Riconda: Requested information on what the HRAC is participating in and focusing on in other towns
• Morgan Peters: Suggested including categorizing language in dealing with human beings

The January meeting will focus on a presentation, review and process by County Administrator Jack Yunits; followed by discussion among HRAC members regarding committees, strategic planning creation and overall planning.

Chair Milsted has requested any thoughts, ideas, recommendations are sent directly to him; they will be compiled and forwarded to both Jack and Brian.

Motion duly made by Dave Schropfer, seconded by Kate Epperly to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

Next meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020, 5:00 pm, County Complex (East Wing Conference Room)

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa M. Santos
Town of Barnstable Liaison