



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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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	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 5:25pm 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