

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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[www.BarnstableCountyHRC.org](http://www.BarnstableCountyHRC.org)

**MINUTES of the REGULAR SESSION**

**Monday January 27, 2020**

**East Wing Conference Room, County Complex, Barnstable, MA**

**Advisory Commission Members Present:**

Kate Epperly, Dave Schropfer, Patricia (Trish) Oshman, Morgan (Mwalim) Peters, Jeanne Morrison, Katie Riconda, Wendy Bierwith

**Advisory Commission Members Not Present**

Alan Milsted, Paul Thompson

**Also present:** Theresa Santos, Town of Barnstable liaison (left early), Brian O'Malley, Barnstable County Assembly Delegate (arrived late), and Susan Quinones, Human Rights Coordinator

**Public Members:** Mr. Greg Wheeler

**Public Comment: Call to Order:**

Kate Epperly called the regular meeting of the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission to order at 5:07 p.m. It was unanimously approved that Kate Epperly would serve as acting Chair for this meeting.

Alex, the child of member Patricia Oshman, spoke about the need for Bystander Training, recounting an incident at Sturgis High School where racial slurs were reportedly used by a teacher in discussing the Roaring 20's, upsetting a student of color present. The incident was subsequently discussed at the Sturgis Human Rights Club whose members reportedly did not know how to react.

Kate Epperly advised she is currently exploring the possibility of discussions regarding bullying, racism, etc., in schools throughout the Cape and the need for Bystander Training.

The dynamics of intimidation were briefly discussed. Morgan Peters commented that when issues of discrimination arise, the person raising the concern often becomes the target. Training is needed to learn how to defend oneself against such targeting. Katie Riconda mentioned Racial Equity Institute Training. David Schropfer said education is required to reduce these incidents and our Commission should be the source of that opportunity.

This will be a topic of discussion at a future meeting.

**Minutes of the previous meetings:**

Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Commission meeting were approved with one edit to add Patricia Oshman's full name as a Re-appointment to the Advisory Commission.

**Barnstable County Code of Conduct.**

The meeting Chair distributed the Code of Conduct to the Advisory Commission members (attached), asking for them to be reviewed.

**Introduction of new Human Rights Coordinator**

Kate Epperly introduced Susan Quinones, the new Human Rights Coordinator with whom all look forward to working. Susan previously held that same position through December 2018.

Susan described her background as eclectic. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and was an equity partner in a major law firm in New York City, prior to coming to Massachusetts in 2000. In MA, Susan was Chief of Staff to Mass DOT Secretary of Transportation; after which she held the position at the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Work Force Development Association.

Susan's email is [Susan.Quinones@BarnstableCounty.org](mailto:Susan.Quinones@BarnstableCounty.org); she can also be reached by phone at: 508-375-6611.

**Report on Planning Human Rights Academy:**

Kate Epperly discussed preparations for the Spring Human Rights Academy on April 16, 2020 from 8 to 12:30 at the Cape Cod Academy. Trish Oshman is coordinating the meeting. It was suggested that John Reed be approached to coordinate solicitation of grants to cover the Spring meeting breakfast costs.

It was suggested that a video be used to open the meeting and a Bystander training exercise be conducted. It was also recommended that each school's Human Rights Group appoint a student liaison to BCHRAC.

Morgan Peters, Wendy Bierwirth, Jeanne Morrison volunteered to assist Trish Oshman in preparations for the Spring meeting of the Human Rights Academy.

**Report on links with County Towns and agencies**

Kate Epperly distributed a Liaison/Task Force Worksheet (attached) listing different county organizations and agencies together with a list of Barnstable County public schools. Commissioners were asked to review the listing and get back to Kate Epperly with information regarding those organizations they have contacts with, as well as those which with they are interested in working. Trish Oshman asked that the Mashpee Affirmative Action and Diversity committee, and the Town of Falmouth Affirmative Action Diversity Committees be added to the list.

**Report on Planning for future Meetings**

It was moved and unanimously approved to schedule future meeting on the third Monday of each month from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. with periodic adjustments for holidays.

2020 meeting dates are as follows:

Monday, February 10, 2020  
Monday March 16, 2020  
Monday April 20, 2020  
Monday May 18, 2020  
Monday June 15, 2020  
July: no meeting  
Monday, August 17, 2020  
Monday September 21, 2020  
Monday October 19, 2020  
Monday November 16, 2020  
Monday December 14, 2020 (adjusted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday due to Christmas Holidays)

The ability to attend meetings via remote conference call was discussed.

**Chair report on other BRHAC activity since the last meeting**

Kate Epperly reported on the workshop she, Jeanne Morrison, and Paul Thompson attended at No Place for Hate in Falmouth for Bystander Training. The idea of providing similar training at High Schools on the Cape was discussed.

**Fundraising for Friends of BCHRAC discussion**

Kate Epperly suggested that the role of the HRAC Friends group needs to be revitalized and engage in more active fundraising for us. Epperly suggested that someone who knows John Reed well, such as Paul Thompson, needs to consult with John about this and inquire whether he would like someone else to step up and take the lead with the group during this pivotal time.

Morgan (Mwalim) Peters also expressed his willingness to assist with fundraising, by possibly having a fundraising concert with his Groovalottos soul/funk/jazz group, like the concert he held for Zion Heritage Museum.

**Public Comments by Members**

Trish Oshman announced a film about immigration by Alexandra Pelosi, being sponsored by the Town of Falmouth and Cape Cod Community College (CCCC), which will be shown at CCCC on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional details were requested.

Trish Oshman also announced a talk by Peter Karibe Mendy, professor of History and Africana Studies about his book on Amilcar Cabral sponsored by the Falmouth Affirmative Action/Diversity Committee on Saturday February 29, 2020 @ 1:00 pm at the Falmouth Public Library. The Sponsoring group will also give a talk about Frederick Douglas in July.

Morgan Peters announced a Jazz Jam where poets are welcome on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Heritage Lounge at the Zion Union Church.

Morgan Peters announced a movement by the New Democracy Coalition to rename Faneuil Hall in Boston. Peter Faneuil paid to build the meeting place in part with slave money. Slaves were bought and sold right next to the Hall. Morgan reported that it has been proposed to rename the Hall for Crispus Attucks.

**Dr. Brian O'Malley presentation**

Dr. O'Malley spoke about how excited he is about the re-formation of the Barnstable Human Rights Advisory Commission and the enthusiasm and ideas he heard discussed at this meeting. Dr. O'Malley will serve as liaison to between the Advisory Commission and the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates and will try to attend as many meetings as possible.

**Adjournment**

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. East Wing Conference Room, County Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Bierwirth

Advisory Commission Member