

COMMITTEE TO COMBAT RACISM AND BIAS
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, June 23, 2021
7:00 p.m. at the York Police Station

In attendance: Anne Bancroft, Kathy Damiano, Aaron Fontaine, Kathryn Lagasse, Eilee Marousek, Chuck Lawton, Matt Murray, Sgt. Nik Piskopanis, Stevo Reid, Alyssa Skaves, and Victoria Simon.

Guest: Jeanine Means

Call to Order 7:05

1. Land Acknowledgement, Victoria Simon
 - a. *Outside, gathered in a circle: Begin by taking a deep breath and slowly exhaling. Close your eyes. Notice your breath. Allow yourself to breathe the deepest knowledge and truth of the ancestors who originally lived here. Allow your mind to imagine this land that the ancestors did not own but cared for. This land where stories were created, sung and danced. Let your mind take in the land and clear clean waterways of the Wabanaki, the place we now call home. With your breath, place yourself in right relation with the land and its original peoples.*
2. Approve minutes from June 9, 2021 - Anne Bancroft
3. [Process Manager Report and Suggestions](#), Alyssa Skaves
 - a. First in-person gathering was last month. We transitioned well, excited to see each other in person; welcoming to guest speaker, Harry Norton, and guest, Todd Frederick. (Chris Jones - next month)

New Business

1. Notes on presentation to Select Board on 6/14
 - a. Aaron, Alyssa and Anne attended the meeting: rundown of everything we've been working on - focal point was clarification on BLM v. BLM org.* Very helpful and much appreciated. SB is setting aside six Jersey barriers for CCRaB. Host an art event? Update from June 7: discussion about changing name from Board of Selectmen - Steve proposed an action step: will go to voters in November. If vote passes, the change will flow down to all documents. Permission to use casually - ex: welcome card.
2. Distribution plan for signs/stickers/cards
 - a. Do we need to copyright? NO
 - b. How/where to respond to community members who question racism in York. Where is it found?

- i. Immigration Day in York Public Schools - simulation around Ellis Island. No options for immigrants not entering via Ellis Island.
- ii. History curriculum - "Did anybody study the Tulsa experience?"
- iii. Not overtly racist - people from marginalized groups are viewed suspiciously everywhere - people are viewed skeptically.
- iv. We don't have to know what it is - Proclamation says we will identify and deal with problems immediately - our Charge is to identify things that happen.
- v. Microaggressions everywhere -
- vi. Assumption that there is no diversity in York erases those who are here.
- vii. QR code? (for people to comment/report?) Are we responsible for launching this?
- viii. DISTRIBUTION: do we need a sub-committee to distribute? Contact Alyssa or Aaron if you want to help out: Chuck, Eilee, Chris, Matt - phone calls to contact owners. Script and list of places; ask businesses to show the Starbucks video. Ask owners to share with employees.
- ix. DISTRIBUTION OF SIGNS: Anne, Victoria, Jeanine and Alyssa.

3 Month Plan for going forward July 1 our funds become available -

Need to begin brainstorming.

- Possibility of hosting something - first weekend of October - Indigenous People's Day - reach out to native community.
- **Joint meeting - Select Board, CCRaB, School Committee possibilities:** August 11 (Wednesday); OR August 16 (Monday)
- Set Training goals

Review Agenda Items for next meeting - July 7 Zoom call

Need to consider term limits and leadership rotation

Adjourn 8:38 p.m.

Shout out to Stevo and Black Lives of York for Juneteenth Walk -

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Recently there has been conversation about the Town of York's Proclamation against Racism, Discrimination and Bigotry, particularly the last line "The Town recognizes Black Lives Matter."

The phrase "Black Lives Matter" became a rallying cry, a call for solidarity in support of an historically marginalized group amidst injustice in America. This cry became a movement, similar to the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's, for Black and Brown people as well as other

groups who face inequity and have very real lived experiences of discrimination, injustice, and inhumanity.

*An organization, also called Black Lives Matter, was born from this movement. The Town of York is not affiliated with this organization nor any of its chapters. The Town, however, is committed to the Black Lives Matter movement: **the pursuit of progress in the fight for human rights for all.***