

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00pm WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

Present:

X	David Martin, Chair		Nathan Cookson, Clerk
X	Diane Randolph Jones, Vice Chair	X	Sunanda Pepalla
	Julie Pierce Onos	X	Lingya Zhou
X	Sandra Hinds	X	Neha Saravanan
X	Melissa Kaplan Morse		

I. Regular Business

Called to order at 7:05.

1. Notes from the chair

None

II. Special Business

1. Welcome new member

Melissa Kaplan Morse went through the VCC process and has been appointed to the Commission by the Select Board.

2. 53 River St Park planning

Andy Magee, Acton's Project Manager for the 53 River Street dam removal project, presented the current plans for the dam removal and park construction on River Street. The Commission discussed accessibility of the park and indigenous participation. Also, questions were asked about the participation of minority firms in the construction.

3. Climate Action Plan

Andrea Becerra, Acton's Sustainability Director, along with representatives of MAPC, presented the current state of the Town's Climate Action Plan. The Commission discussed what incentives are available for the proposed actions, and how to include renters in the actions. The suggestion was made to connect with families through children and religious groups. How to factor in cost was also addressed.

4. Diversity Officer study

Representatives of the UMB Collins Center (Christa Kelleher, Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson, Mary Flanders Arcardi, Angesom Jeklu, Tanya Shallop) discussed their process for gathering information on how to incorporate a Diversity Officer into Town Government. The Commission discussed that the Diversity Director will need to get to know the town. Incident reporting is of extreme importance. The Diversity Director will need to handle

polarizing issues. As the Town's first Diversity Officer has a high bar. S/he needs to be flexible and to adjust their plans as necessary. They cannot be expected to fix everything at once.

The Diversity Director needs to know the groups of people in our community and to need a be a conduit of communication between committees. The Diversity Director, like other Town directors, should be in a position to drive decision making, probably reporting to the Town Manager.

III. Closing Items

5. Approve minutes from previous meetings.

- No minutes were approved.

6. Confirm future meetings and calendar events.

- Next meeting wasn't scheduled.

7. Adjourn

- David moved and Diane second. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 9:05