



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Draft

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**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2020, 5:00-6:30 PM
Remote participation**

Advisory Commission Members Present:

Alan Milsted, Kate Epperly, Dave Schropfer, Patricia Oshman, Jeanne Morrison, Katie Riconda, Wendy Bierwirth, Paul Thompson

Advisory Commission Members Not Present:

Morgan (Mwalim) Peters

Also Present:

Brian O'Malley, Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates liaison, Susan Quinones, Human Right Coordinator, Patricia Armstrong, Yarmouth (joined the meeting after the roll call)

Town Liaisons Not Present:

Theresa Santos, Barnstable

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Vice Chair Kate Epperly opened the meeting at 5:15 pm, because the Chair, Alan Milsted had technical problems with his audio. HRAC Coordinator Susan Quinones, conducted a roll call. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Open Meeting Law Requirements

Susan reviewed the order issued by Governor Charlie Baker, allowing HRAC to post its agenda electronically, and to allow HRAC to meet remotely. Otherwise, all provisions of the OML are still operative. We had a quorum. We do not have a public comment section. Susan requested that this meeting be recorded as it is an option on Zoom.

3. Minutes of meeting held on May 18, 2020

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18th meeting. Brian O'Malley requested as an edit to the minutes that quotation marks be inserted around the overdoses comment. The motion, as amended, was seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. Guest Speaker, Rosemary Shields, League of Women Voters, Cape Cod chapter

Rosemary Shields joined us to give an overview of the various activities of the League of Women Voters. She described the League's current efforts to pass a bill in Massachusetts to allow of voting by mail. They are also actively involved in nationwide efforts to eliminate efforts at voter suppression. The League has joined in on lawsuits filed by the ACLU to expand voter participation, as well. A full list of legislative initiatives that the League is advocating for can be found within the meeting materials on our website. Also on the website is the League's national statement in support of "The Justice in Policing Act of 2020" which they view as "a necessary first step towards creating systems of accountability that will make communities safer and begin the process of eliminating police brutality in America."

5. Discussion with Chief Frederickson

Chief Frederickson, Police Assoc of Cape & Islands discussed the association's involvement with the community. He voiced the desire to understand public expectations. He plans on surveying all individuals on latest public call to understand if they got the information they sought. He noted that he marched in a recent protest in Yarmouth. It was suggested that when revisions to police policy, members from HRAC should be present. The Chief said they would like to reach out to young adults and youth. Police are now awaiting the new police reform bill in the Governor's office to become law.

Morrison: I am a black woman and we all need to be heard. Things like police dogs cannot bite anyone. He felt that would need to be changed. Implementation guide is 15 pages and should be read by everyone. Should we use County facilities, or a panel and just chiefs or a series that deal with policing, housing, etc. We are dealing with one issue after another, so your group could help keep this going, said Chief Frederickson.

Thompson: WCAI doing series. John Reed to speak in their program as will Paul. Sen. Cyr working with teens on this as well as political parties. An interfaith service on Hyannis Village Green is being planned. People cannot become desensitized by the media; we must continue to voice our concerns.

Riconda: We should convene regional sections of the Cape inviting everyone to attend multiple virtual town hall meetings with diverse panelists.

6. Next HRAC Meeting

Traditionally, the Board would not meet in-person during July because of the influx of tourists, which made driving to the meeting in Hyannis near impossible. Now that we are having meetings remotely due to the COVID-19, Alan proposed a motion that the Board have a July meeting on July 13th. Voting "yes" were Advisory members Milsted, Epperly, Bierwirth, Oshman, Riconda, and Morrison (Schropfer left as he announced earlier). With the motion approved, the next meeting of the HRAC will be on July 13, 2020.

7. Adjournment

Upon a motion, which was duly seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.