



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Draft**

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**Minutes of September 21, 2020 meeting  
Remote participation**

Advisory Commission Members Present:

Alan Milsted (Chair), Wendy Bierwirth, Jeanne Morrison, Katie Riconda, Paul Thompson, Dave Schropfer, and Trish Oshman

Also Present:

Brian O'Malley (BC Assembly of Delegates liaison), Pat Armstrong (Town of Yarmouth Liaison), and Susan Quinones (Coordinator), Allison Carter (Coordinator's Assistant)

Guests: Rick Draper, Steve Buckley Deidre Sullivan

Apologies from: Kate Epperly (Vice-chair), Theresa Santos (Town of Barnstable Liaison)

1. Call to Order, Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. A roll call determined a quorum to be present.

2. Reminder of OML requirements for remote participation and initial comments: Susan Quinones reviewed the requirements and introduced Allison Carter, her new administrative assistant. Allison will be working 5 hours per week.

3. Public Comment: Steve Buckley asked the Commission to consider allowing public participation throughout the meetings, rather than just during the public comment period and hearings. He also recommended this Commission adopt the same policy that Brian O'Malley proposed for adoption by the Assembly of Delegates. The Chair indicated that the comment would be addressed on a future agenda.

4. Adoption of Minutes: The Minutes of August 10 regular meeting and the September 9 Special Meeting were unanimously accepted as presented.

5. Recommendations from Working groups:
  - a. HRA: The Bystander training possibilities were briefly discussed.
  - b. No report from the Strategic Planning Committee.
  - c. Intake/Complaints committee announced that the Intake Form was ready for distribution and final edits.
  - d. Social Media: Facebook and website postings continue. Allison will be performing these functions in coordination with Sonja and Susan.
  
6. Report from the Human Rights Coordinator: Susan Quinones submitted her written report, which is also posted on the website. Highlights of her report included a description of the procedure established to receive applications for HRAC Board vacancies; announcing the hiring of Allison Carter as the Administrative Assistant to the Coordinator; and a summary of her testimony to the Regional Board of Commissioners.
  
7. Report from Chair
  - a. Census 2020: must now to be completed by September 30. A new ruling states that it includes people who are not lawful residents in the county. (Both rulings are currently being appealed.)
  - b. BCHRAC/Police chiefs – The Yarmouth police department is establishing a communications relations committee for Civilian accountability. Marty Walsh in Boston also has a police reform position he is working on with 17 pages of recommendations. Susan is looking at that proposal for recommendations. Yarmouth wants feedback from the public so they can work on specific issues. Lt. Bogden has been put in charge. It was recommended that BCHRAC should establish a personal relationship with him. Paul Thompson and David Schropfer, together with Jeanne Morrison will investigate getting the word out to groups they work within the community.
  - c. Update on General and State elections, November 3, accommodations for people with disabilities will be made at all voting locations. People can ask for help.
  
8. Dave Schropfer provided a short update on the last MAHRC meeting, which Susan also participated in for the first time. Susan mentioned that the Department of Justice was working on an update Resource Guide Human Rights Commissions, that she has requested a copy of, when available.
  
9. Other items from HRAC members

The September 2<sup>nd</sup> incident at the Assembly of Delegates was discussed, including the need for a Code of Conduct to be adhered to by both elected delegates and commissioners. A proposed letter drafted by the Intake Committee decrying the incident was circulated. Comments to be submitted no later than 9:30 Thursday.
  
10. There being no further business a motion to adjourn was approved at 6:36 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 5:00 pm.