

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”) Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 20, 2023

6:00 PM

Longmeadow Adult Center, Conference Room

211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106

This was the fifth meeting of the newly formed DEI Advisory Committee, appointed by the Longmeadow Select Board to continue the work of the Longmeadow Coalition for Racial Justice as the group facing the community.

1. The Chair, Dr. AnnMarie Martinez (she/her) called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Committee Members Present – Chair-AnnMarie (she/her), Clerk - Tammye Erb (she/they), Saul Finestone (he/him), Christopher Morris (he/him), and Linda Preston (she/her).

Absent – Ronnie Leavitt (she/her), Gabriel Mokwuah (he/him), and Beverly Sager (she/her).

Public – None.

2. Public Comments: The meeting was an open meeting where public comment was offered. There were no public comments. This committee encourages the public to attend.

3. Committee Comments:

- a. Saul shared information about an ongoing speaker series - EVOLVE - based in Springfield. Recent DEI-related session recently passed but others in the future may be of interest to the group.
- b. Vacancy in Committee - Group discussion of the fact that 9 members were originally appointed, but we currently have 8 members after one dismissal. Questions arose about what the Select Board may do in response to the situation.
- c. Discussion of some DEI-related terminology: what is best practice? Do we have concerns/consensus about the usage of terms such as BIPOC/Aalana; Latino/Latinx?
- d. Saul shared that he and Ryan McCollum will be continuing their speaker series at the Adult Center on October 10 (a *change from the prior October 31 date*) on Wokeism.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2023. A motion was made by Saul to approve June 22, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Christopher. The motion passed unanimously with one revision to verbiage (Black or BIPOC).

5. Continued Review of Committee Scope and Sub-Committee Appointments and interests (in alphabetical order).

- a. Saul volunteered to act as a Community Liaison, promoting DEI in various groups and settings around the community. The group unanimously approved.

- b. Christopher: Liaison to Select Board’s internal DEI group: he has spoken with Mike B regarding the work being done within the town government. Their group is also just starting, including looking at the website and other town publications to ensure consistency of terms being used (e.g. Latinx/Latino, etc.).

6. New Business

- a. DEI Committee Booth at Longmeadow Fall Festival (9/9 & 9/10) and Pride (9/17)
 - i. Linda has started a list of ideas that were being generated via LARC, but the group can build upon, and revise ideas to include the scope of the DEI Committee. She will check with the leaders of both events to secure a booth at each event. Our goal, within the scope of our mission, is to connect with members of the community and create relationships, inviting people to share their DEI-related experiences in town. “What’s your Longmeadow story?” Voluntary survey(s) and discussions may arise from our presence.
 - ii. We will use information shared voluntarily to build future events.
- b. “Longmeadow Neighbors” publication: several committee members have seen issues of this local publication feature mainly white families. We would like to see a broader range of diverse families and their stories on the cover and in features to better capture the full experience of Longmeadow residents.
- c. Nomination of a Liaison to the Long-Range Planning and Steering Committee, to serve until June 2024:
 - i. Discussion by the group of who might be interested and available to serve.
 - ii. Saul nominated Christopher Morris to the position; Tammye 2nd:
 - iii. Group unanimously voted to name Christopher as Liaison;
 - iv. and Chair AnnMarie will notify Corinne Meise-Munns of the appointment.

- 7. Adjournment. Upon no further agenda items or points of discussion, at 7:18 PM, Saul moved, and Christopher seconded to adjourn our meeting. The group unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammye Erb