

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

Thursday, August 17, 2023

6:00 PM

Longmeadow Adult Center, Conference Room

211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106

This was the sixth 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 6:07 PM.

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

Absent – Saul Finestone (he/him), and Beverly Sager (she/her).

Public – Mechilia “Chile” Salazar (she/her)

2. Public Comments: The meeting was an open meeting where public comment was offered but no one from the public was present at the time during this meeting section. There were no public comments. This committee encourages the public to attend.

3. Committee Comments:

- a. Chris, as Liaison to the Town’s Long-Range Planning Committee, shared information about the group’s “Kitchen Conversations” initiative. The packet with information is available online. They want residents to think about how they think Longmeadow may change over the next 30 years or so. The group members are meeting with small groups around town to ask a set of questions to gain varied perspectives.
- b. Our DEI group would like to connect to this initiative, asking similar questions while including the DEI lens. The *Long Meddowe* Fall Festival and the Longmeadow Pride Festival booths are opportunities to connect.
- c. Tammye was asked by Saul to share that he and Ryan McCollum will be continuing their speaker series at the Adult Center on August 29 (“Wokesim”), October 10 (*change from prior Oct. 31 date*) on “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” In December (date TBD) they will make room for this committee to address the public if that makes sense to us, e.g. “DEI 201,” or they will speak on another topic.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2023. A motion was made by Linda to approve July 20, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Christopher. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

5. New Business
 - a. “Longmeadow Neighbors” publication: several members noticed that there recently was more diverse representation on the cover story.
 - b. Further discussion of details of DEI Committee’s booths at the *Long Meadowe* Fall Festival (Saturday and Sunday, September 9th and 10th) and Longmeadow Pride Festival (Sunday, September 17th, 11 am-4 pm) at the Town Green.
6. The next meeting will be on September 21st at 6 p.m. at the Longmeadow Adult Center.
7. Adjournment. Upon no further agenda items or points of discussion, at 7:29 PM, *Ronnie moved, and Christopher seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Tammye Erb