

**Wakefield Human Rights Commission
October 2019 Meeting**

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: WCAT Studios, 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA 01880

Participants:

Jennifer Boettcher
Isabel Castro
Rich Greif
Christina Joseph
Frankie Lawton (via Skype, participating not voting)
Pina Masciarelli
Maria Muti
Bob Vincent
Benny Wheat
Mehreen Butt (Town Councillor)
Eric (from the public)
Chief Skory, ex officio

Absent:

Officer Amy Rando
Reverend Cadwell
Superintendent Doug Lyons, ex officio
Town Administrator Steve Maio, ex officio

1. Call to Order: 6:30
2. Approval of September Minutes
3. Public participation: Eric shared with us a Yearbook from 1953 containing “Native American” images to represent the Wakefield Warriors.
4. Open Meeting Law

Tom Mullen, Town Counsel visited us and gave a refresher course on town laws and procedures. Among the most important items mentioned:

- Always post notice of meetings and allow people to attend.
- Executive sessions should be reserved for exceptional cases. Consult with Tom Mullen first, in case the need of having an Executive meeting ever arises.
- Keep minutes of regular and special meetings
- Subcommittees have to follow the same laws as open meetings. Quorum in our case is 6 people, since we have 11 members. A subcommittee can't be bigger than six people.
- What is the penalty for breaking open-meeting law? Usually the attorney general send a warning letter/ remedial letter for first time offenses. The town could be fined.

- Members can't talk substance, only scheduling outside of official meetings.
- Minutes are to be sent to Betsy Sheeran in about a month after they are approved.
- What is the penalty for breaking open-meeting law? Usually the attorney general send a warning letter/ remedial letter for first time offenses. The town could be fined.
- What happens if most members of the WHRC attend an event not organized by us? The whole committee can show up and participate, but not deliberate of WHRC matters.
- Remote Participation is possible, but voting is not counted.
- What do we do when we need to send urgent correspondence/ organize vigils/ have emergency meetings? Communicate with the chair. One to one is communication, not deliberation.
- What happens in the event of unwanted guests attending meetings or events? They are allowed to attend and record, but can't monopolize. Try to keep civil, have a recess, cool off the situation. Remind them that the public is only allowed to participate during public participation.
- DONATIONS: Make a request to the Town Council to accept donated goods. Ask Town Council to accept the donation. "To accept money from various sources"
- There is the option of opening of opening a revolving account. Then ask Tom Mullen to help us and approve us.

5. Advocacy/ legislative issues

Columbus Day: talk to the Beebe Library for next year.

Have a meeting with the *Sons of Italy*.

6. Response plan to urgent incidents in town

Next meeting we will follow up this item. The document is being drafted by a sub-committee. We will vote for the "response template" on the next meeting

7. EVENTS

UU Church Human Trafficking Event. Updates will be given at the next meeting.

MLK Day: A sub-committee was formed and will meet soon to start planning.

International Women's Day: Maybe we could invite Maura Healey as a speaker

8. Donation acceptance options. We did not discuss the topic at length and have to come to a decision, but we have to keep in mind that we are a Town Body.

9. Wakefield Cultural Council Grant 2020

Pina applied for a grant, but asked if we could apply for two events. We will hear in January

10. WHRC Supplies: 5 Common St. Pending

11. Matters not anticipated

Chris Herren's: "The First Day" If we are interested in Sponsoring, they can add us to the list. November 20th, 7pm, at the GMS.

ACTION ITEM:

Maria: Research about Columbus Day-Indigenous People Day situation in Marblehead

Rich: talk to facilities manager. Resolve microphone issue

Benny and Frankie: 6:15 be early to set up for UU Church Event

Jen: School dood. Com check dates. Pina will walk you through it.

Jen, Maria, Pina: Meet to write template for urgent events

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26