

**TOWN OF BOLTON
DIVERSITY COMMISSION
November 10, 2021 - MINUTES**

The Diversity Commission held its first meeting on November 10, 2021 with First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also, in attendance were: Interim Administrative Office James Rupert, Amanda Gordon, Cheryl Udin, Kawan Gordon, Jennifer Cyr, John Toomey, Rhea Klein and Paula Meyers.

1. Call To Order

S. Pierog called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made by the entire group.

3. Review Charge of the Committee.

S. Pierog stated this committee was formed by action of the Board of Selectmen. In the resolution the BOS said it recognizes that the Town can do more to address issues of diversity and inclusion. We also recognize the Town may not be fully aware of all the issues and may require the help and input from residents. This is a temporary ad-hoc committee that can consist of up to 15 members appointed by the commission for a 1-year term following the first meeting of the commission. This committee can create its own agenda to address issues pertaining to Town government, community, diversity and inclusion, with the caveat that you're an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen.

Of the 15 members we currently have 11 members appointed. One has since resigned, as she has moved from town. This includes (8 democrats and 2 unaffiliated). There are five (5) remaining positions; of which two (2) might be democrats, and the remainder must be unaffiliated or republican. The BOS must appoint any additional members that wish to participate on the commission.

4. Election of Officers.

P. Meyers volunteered to take minutes at all the subsequent meetings.

K. Gordon volunteered to be Vice Chair of the committee.

A. Gordon volunteered to be Chair. (S. Pierog agreed to mentor).

Motion: I move we appoint Amanda Gordon as Chair and Kawan Gordon as Vice Chair of the Diversity Commission.

By: P. Meyers Seconded: J. Cyr

Voting:

For: Unanimous – all seven (7) members voted yes.

Against: None
Abstain: None

5. Discussion of Next Steps.

K. Gordon – I think we should try to identify opportunities in town to promote positivity; bring people back together; focus on something neutral and not political. Try to repair some of the negativity from the recent municipal election. A good start is the new FB group in Bolton that promotes positivity. There has been quite a bit of negativity in our town over the last month and half on social media. Promoting better positive relations throughout the community.

P. Meyers – Trying to figure out what our measurable goal would be to show people in town; and I don't know what that would be.

R. Klein – Maybe we should look at hosting some events. Need to get a better understanding of our town's demographics.

J. Cyr?? – Other countries have what's called a "Human Library" – where you rent an actual person to tell their history and story so people can better understand someone else's culture.

A. Gordon – possible agenda items for our next meeting:

- Group norms and values – how we treat others and expect to be treated.
- Fundraiser for lawn signs that promotes diversity and inclusion.
- Identify and prioritize tasks we want to accomplish in the next year.

J. Toomey – we may want to review the BOS charge for this commission. To see if the BOS has any clear points of what may be expected of this commission. Will check w/Wethersfield Human Rights and Relations Commission to see what their agendas have on them.

R. Klein – happy to apply for any grants that might be used for us. Think we should come up with an action plan in our next meeting with timelines.

K. Gordon – when coming up with goals go for the larger idea/ biggest win– we can always condense it if needed.

S. Pierog stated there is no budget for this committee. 300th Anniversary money is available for Town anniversary celebrations/events only.

6. Set Meeting Dates for Next Calendar Year.

Two types of meetings:

- Regular Meeting
 - “Other” category on agenda – which means anything anyone wants to discuss can be discussed at that time; or anyone can add something to the agenda by consensus.
- Special Meeting
 - Can only discuss those things specifically on the agenda. You cannot add things and you cannot have an “other” category.
- Additional Info:
 - All meeting dates must be in to the Town Clerk at least 30 day prior to the meeting.
 - Agendas must be sent to the Town Clerk and Kathy McCavanagh and at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting.
- Meeting date lists for 2022 should be chosen and emailed to the Town Clerk and Kathy McCavanagh.
- You can have a public meeting at a private residence but you cannot exclude anyone from attending, including the public.

A.Gordon will send out doodle poll to get a consensus on what day/time might work for everyone and then try to set monthly meeting dates for everyone to review at next meeting. She will also send out the charge for this commission for everyone to review. * Please include Jim Rupert and Kathy McCavanagh on all your emails moving forward.

7. Other

None.

8. Adjournment.

A.Gordon adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.