

# Scituate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (SDEIC)

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 6:30pm      Amended MINUTES  
via Remote Participation due to COVID-19

Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 has been extended until March 31, 2023. This meeting will be recorded by Scituate Community Television and can be viewed live on Scituate Community Television Facebook Live. The recorded meeting will be available the following day on Comcast Channel 9 and YouTube Scituate Community Television.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVaLYpw\\_Hfs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVaLYpw_Hfs)

## Members

### Non-voting Members:

Bob Clark  
Maura Curran  
Amanda O'Shea

### Voting Members:

Lillian Cruz      \* *New member*  
Elena Gulotta  
Angela Ribeiro-Dray  
Celia Richa  
Thomas Secaur  
Natasha Stewart  
Kate Swope  
Ruth Yasin

Members Absent:- Maura Curran, Celia Richa, Kate Swope, Amanda OShea

Amendment to originally proposed minutes - 7d - Economic Development *Commission*

## AGENDA

1. Chairperson Secaur - Called the meeting to order, read the Scituate DEI Commitment Statement and the remote participation and viewing options.  
Motion made to open the meeting by Chairperson Secaur at 6:32pm - seconded by Ms. Yasin.  
Roll call vote - unanimous approval  
Lillian Cruz - yes  
Elena Gulotta - yes  
Angela Ribeiro-Dray - yes  
Celia Richa - absent  
Thomas Secaur - yes  
Natasha Stewart - yes  
Kate Swope - absent  
Ruth Yasin - yes
2. Welcome to new member - Lillian Cruz, Director of Transportation for the Senior Center, Council on Aging.
3. Review and Acceptance of Minutes - 8/2/2022 and 8/16/2022  
Motion made to accept the proposed minutes 8/2/2022 by Chairperson Secaur, seconded by Ms. Gulotta.  
Roll call vote - unanimous approval  
Lillian Cruz - yes

Elena Gulotta - yes  
Angela Ribeiro-Dray - yes  
Celia Richa - absent  
Thomas Secaur - yes  
Natasha Stewart - yes  
Kate Swope - absent  
Ruth Yasin - yes

Motion made to accept the proposed minutes 8/16/2022 by Chairperson Secaur, seconded by Vice Chair Dray.

Roll call vote - unanimous approval

Lillian Cruz - yes  
Elena Gulotta - yes  
Angela Ribeiro-Dray - yes  
Celia Richa - absent  
Thomas Secaur - yes  
Natasha Stewart - yes  
Kate Swope - absent  
Ruth Yasin - yes

4. Liaison Reports and Community Announcements - SSB, SPS, STRIDE
  - a. SSB - Chairperson Secaur - Next Monday is Special Town Meeting
  - b. SPS - Mr. Adams reported that there was a strong opening of school with great student energy. The Lit teams are getting back in action, and students who have moved from elementary schools into Gates are bringing in their energy. This is Our House programs will happen at all schools beginning next week. The Anti-Racism group has met at SHS and discussed IP Day. They have signatures on a petition of support and want to be of assistance as IP Day moves forward. Positive response from Metco families that they will be able to get parking passes for Scituate beaches. There are plans to start a STEP team in Scituate. SPS will conduct a wide ranging equity audit using the company PCG. There will be a process to make the results public.
  - c. STRIDE - Ms. Yasin reported that the Commission on Disabilities is having an accessibility awareness event on Oct 22, 10am-1pm at SHS.
5. Public Comment - none
6. Review of In-Flight Opportunities and Projects
  - a. Translation Services - Ms. Gulotta noted that there are no translation services for the town website or for townwide alerts. Also, public health important announcements have been mailed out with no translation offered. Ms. Gulotta noted that Hingham, Randolph, Plymouth, & Quincy as well as a few other communities use Google Translate on their websites, but other local communities do not. Ms. Gulotta suggested that we prioritize getting translation services for the Town website and email alerts for public health notices and weather emergencies (whether email, website, or paper mail) to ensure that all residents

are able to understand important messages. Will be in touch with contacts in Town Hall to see if this has been done before, if not, would they be open to it and who decides how to make things happen? We may need a budget, and determine what are the top languages used. Mr. Clark noted that the Scituate Public Schools has a translation link, and just today our web provider, Civic Plus, added Google Translate to the Town website, but it does not extend to alerts. Mr. Clark noted that he would have to check if all alerts are posted on the website, and if so, then they would be able to be translated automatically from this new service. Committee members were very appreciative to have the website add this service. There were some other suggestions and questions to think about to increase access to town notices:

- i. Could the translation service notice be moved to the top of the website or have other ways to highlight the notice of translation services. Mr. Clark mentioned that we may be able to develop this further to see if we could have an enhancement like the way SPS has which is more obvious on the web site.
  - ii. Suggested that there be an option when you go to sign up for the alerts from Town that they could offer a “select preferred language” as an option for email alerts along with getting your email address.
  - iii. Or perhaps, on an Email alert or mailed paper alert, there could be a required addendum translated into the usual languages also spoken in Scituate on how to view a translation of the alert on the Town website.
  - iv. Ms. Dray also noted that it would be important to address how seniors and other residents who need translation services could learn how they can use the internet to gain information in their own language. There could be an informational poster in different languages posting this information at Town Hall and the Senior Center, and Ms. Cruz noted that the senior housing areas would also be valuable spots.
  - v. Information from the SPS is that there are at least 11 other languages spoken as native languages in the schools’ families.
- b. Investigating hybrid remote Town Meeting - Chair Secaur reported that the workgroup has had multiple meetings, but much is symbolic until the State will allow remote participation in Town Meetings. Even though Cohasset has voted to allow it, it can't happen until the State votes to allow it. Rev. Stewart noted that the Scituate Clergy members were also in support of this concept. Seth helped explain the audio visual technical needs. Will continue to look into it.
- c. IP Day MA - Chair Secaur noted that we will review the deck, and we will reconvene the workgroup to reorganize to plan next steps. Ms. Yasin noted that the students have conducted a survey of students about IP Day and wish to continue to be involved. Ms. Yasin also noted that IP Day MA had come out of

committee to be presented to the legislative bodies, but was not brought up before the recess in August. State Rep. Joan Meschino feels that it has a good chance of being addressed next session which begins in January.

7. Other Business (that may properly come before the Committee after agenda is posted)
  - a. Ms. Yasin wished to inform the committee that Jessie Finnie of the Scituate Library said that she is asking the Scituate Select Board on 9/19 to allow the library to go "fine free." Last year's revenues were about \$3,500 - significantly down because of auto renewals and other libraries not taking fines (only 7 out of 27 libraries in the district currently collect fines). The library would continue to charge for lost and damaged items. Ms. Cruz noted that fines disproportionately affect people with limited incomes, and that 26% of Scituate's population are seniors - a large population who can be disproportionately affected by issues they face, for example going into the hospital or rehab, or from failing memory issues. Though we could not take a formal vote on this issue because it was not posted in the agenda, all SDEIC members present were unanimous in their support for going fine free.
  - b. Introduction to Lillian Cruz - Transportation coordinator for Council on Aging and works out of the Senior Center. Has worked in the Senior Center for about one year and with seniors over 30 years. She states that she is all about diversity, equity, and inclusion - and noted that problems with accessibility for transportation are core to her job. She has transformed services offered by the CoA and now Scituate offers services that no other local CoA does. She has recruited van assistance for people with dementia, vision disabilities, extremely elderly (over 85), or people having medical procedures. Ridership is up 40% and has wheelchair assistance for those needing it. She comes from an Human Service background and so likes to work with data. Chair Secaur will email her the Projects in Flight. Mr. Adams suggested that Ms. Cruz be in touch with Megan Sommer, the chair of the Council on Disabilities.
  - c. Ms. Dray gave an update on the Cape Verde Sister City. It has 90% of its membership settled with 8 members appointed to the committee - 2 positions are still open. The first meeting will be on 9/22, and the Scituate Historical Society has been in touch about planning a joint event in November. To clarify, if a person is interested in becoming a committee member they do not need to be someone of Cave Verdean descent.
  - d. Mr. Adams asked about whether Scituate had a cultural council or district or art association. Members brainstormed and came up with the Scituate Art Association, Scituate Cultural Council, Scituate Harbor Cultural District, Scituate Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development *Commission*, Scituate Visitor's Center, and the Scituate Historical Society.
  - e. Mr. Adams also mentioned that he is developing the concept of a virtual bedtime

story for guest readers from different pluralistic backgrounds - platform and details TBD. Multiple members volunteered to be readers, and felt this was a great idea.

8. Administrative

- Future Meeting Dates - October 11, November 15, December 13

Please let Chairperson Secaur know if you will be absent.

9. Close Meeting and Adjourn - Motion made by Chairperson Secaur to close the meeting at 7:39pm. Seconded by Rev. Stewart.

Roll call vote - unanimous approval:

Lillian Cruz - yes  
Elena Gulotta - yes  
Angela Ribeiro-Dray - yes  
Celia Richa - absent  
Thomas Secaur - yes  
Natasha Stewart - yes  
Kate Swope - absent  
Ruth Yasin - yes

**List of Documents:**

Follow up from meeting: Town of Scituate News Update 9/19/2022 - announcement that the translation service is now available on the Town of Scituate website (starting at 7:19).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNB1q7ToaHo>

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Yasin