

Scituate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (SDEIC)

Thursday, October 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=uC6HwTRj2ZQ>

Members

Non-voting Members:

Bob Clark
Maura Curran
Amanda O'Shea

Voting Members:

Lillian Cruz
Elena Gulotta
Angela Ribeiro-Dray
Celia Richa

Thomas Secaur
Natasha Stewart
Kate Swope
Ruth Yasin

Members Absent: Bob Clark, Elena Gulotta, Natasha Stewart, Amanda O'Shea

Minutes Amended to correct spelling of 6a: Dr. Jean McGuire.

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. Swope.

Roll call vote - unanimous approval

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

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes - 09/13/2022 - Ms. Yasin noted that Mr. Clark had suggested an amendment to the originally proposed minutes - 7d - Economic Development *Commission* (not Center as originally written). A motion was made by Chairperson Secaur to accept the amended minutes and seconded by Vice Chair Dray.

Roll call vote - unanimous approval

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

Ruth Yasin - yes

3. Liaison Reports and Community Announcements - SSB, SPS, STRIDE

- a. Scituate Select Board (SSB) - Selectperson Curran - Special Town Meeting was a success because able to pass all articles important to the town especially with the water treatment plant; will try to expedite the permitting to be able to move this project along. Will be entering the budgeting season. Appointed the last of the members for the Cape Verde Sister City committee - very exciting for our town. Ms. Dray commented that the committee has a variety of different age groups and backgrounds - with a lot of ideas to address education, seniors, and everyone in between. Many of the applicants live outside Scituate, but have a rich history, many of which include Scituate backgrounds. Chairperson Secaur asked if there are any other Cape Verde Sister Cities in MA. Ms. Dray responded that there is one in Boston whose sister city is the capital of Cape Verde. We chose a different area in C.V. because most of the participants in our committee come from another area - the Island of Fogo. Selectperson Curran suggested that the Cape Verde Sister City Committee be in touch with the Boston group, as the other Sister City groups in town have done with other similar committees in neighboring areas.
- b. STRIDE - Ms. Yasin sent an email to the committee with information from STRIDE about a South Shore Unity event held in Pembroke on Oct. 22. The Starpower program, which is free, is open to Board and Committee members of the South Shore Unity Council and their partners. The program helps attendees understand the implications of power and how to use this understanding to make positive social change. STRIDE is also working with the Library and the SPS LIT group to present the first event for this school year at the Scituate Town Library this Tuesday October 18.
- c. Senior Citizen Center - Ms. Cruz reported about the Disability Awareness Event at Scituate High School 10am -1pm on October 22 which is open to the public. Many different groups, approximately 20, will be part of this event.
- d. SPS - Mr. Adams - The schools had a professional development workshop - Short Stop - about how to have engaging conversations with caregivers and parents. Looking forward to LIT Community Conversation from 6-7:15pm in the lower level conference room in the library. Have now completed all levels of the Our House Program for all levels. The elementary schools have sent letters home to see who would be interested in participating in LIT Teams for each school. The SPS Equity Audit has begun. Families and students are able to participate. People can volunteer to be part of focus groups and also will be asked to fill out a survey. Public Consulting Group (PCG) is the company running the audit, and the focus is on areas of strength or growth in equity. Parents received an email from Superintendent Burkhead which explained the whole process. Season 2 of the

LIT Podcast is available on all podcast platforms. Mr. Adams clarified the names of Activity Groups in SHS. The umbrella organization is called The Ballast (unofficial name), which consists of several different organizations: Anti-Racism Group, LIT Teams, 1787 Club, and Allies not Bystanders.

4. Public Comment - none

5. Review of In-Flight Opportunities and Projects - Chairperson Secaur referred to the Project Plan (also sent out to the group via email - SDEIC Project Plan 10 13 22 - Tom Secaur).

- a. Update on Indigenous Peoples Day Scituate - The SDEIC workgroup met and plans to present to the SSB in the near future. There are various options under consideration; a resolution from SSB can be overturned, but it is more difficult to overturn an initiative if there is a vote from the Town Meeting. Chairperson Secaur noted that our first meeting with the SSB will be to educate and explain how we came to the decision to support IP Day Scituate. The question arose asking if it would be possible for the SSB to vote to accept IP Day Scituate, and then go to Town Meeting to help solidify the position? This has been done in at least one of the towns in MA which has adopted IP Day. The MA State Legislature has not yet moved forward on the bill that has been introduced for IP Day MA, so though a possibility in the future, can not be taken for granted. Taylor, a student from SPS, reported that over 100 Scituate High School Students signed a petition in support of IP Day and she read a statement of support which she would like to report to the SSB. Select Person Curran will check to see if we can get on the November 8 SSB agenda.
- b. Equitable Communications - The Town of Scituate website has been updated to enable Google translate (over 100 languages available through this service) - and was announced by Town Administrator Jim Boudreau on a Monday Town Update. The schools' website already has this functionality, though they have the notice more prominently at the top of the web page. The workgroup of Chairperson Secaur, Ms. Swope, Ms. Gulotta, and Ms. Richa will continue to look into details to further develop translation services to include town alerts and mailings. You can subscribe to alerts on the Town website, but alerts are only broadcast in English. How can we send these in other languages? The same question applies to Town mailings. Ms. Richa noted that for budget purposes, we should look into the costs that might be involved. Selectperson Curran concurred - that it might affect the budgets of the various departments affected. Selectperson Curran suggested that the workgroup members might want to talk to Kathy Gardner to see if she has solutions that other Town Clerks use to address this same issue. Mike Minchello is another resource, he manages the town internet and web site, as well as Seth, our IT contact. It might help us see what it would cost to get this into the budget

for 2024 and forward.

- c. Hybrid town meetings - Chairperson Secaur noted that we have discussed this topic in several of our meetings, with other communities, and with Seth our IT coordinator. Most votes of support for hybrid meetings that have happened in other communities are pretty symbolic because the State does not allow towns to meet and vote remotely. Select Person Curran noted that towns' statements of support for the hybrid meeting concept is a way of encouraging state leaders to find solutions for the problems that need to be resolved in order to establish hybrid forms of Town Meetings. She will also check in with Select Person Canfield to see if there has been any movement on changing Scituate's Town meeting structure to a representative Town Meeting. Select Person Curran suggested that we might make a resolution to the SSB which, if accepted, would then become an article at Town Meeting to state that Scituate supports the development of Statewide rules and procedures allowing a hybrid town meeting format. It allows us to move forward and lobby our elected State officials to support this. Ms. Richa agreed that such a resolution would help move things along. From conversations with Cohasset, it was clear that Senator Patrick O'Connor supports the concept, and Ms. Richa would like to get SSB to support it. She feels the workgroup can follow up with other towns to see what they are doing and how they are following up on their petitions for Home Rule.
- d. Ms. Curran reminded the committee that in the initial stages of the committee workgroups had multiple meetings with many Town departments. She asked if we were ready to present findings and recommendations that came from these meetings. Even just a report noting what we uncovered, eg training. What can we say about it? Bob is not here tonight, but will follow up with him as a follow up on training. Ms. Yasin noted that we had multiple findings that were not really ready to become concrete recommendations. Select Person Curran suggested that we get this material together and that committee members could meet with her and Town Administrator Boudreau to help define issues to move forward to the SSB. Chairperson Secaur noted that we have the survey answers from all the departments, but there were no real issues that jumped up that we felt we needed to address. There was a focus on the Police Department early in our process, and Chief Thompson was incredibly responsive and gave us extensive documentation noting the steps the Scituate PD was taking to be in compliance with DEI issues. Selectperson Curran noted that even if there are not negative findings, that we should report out the positive findings so that it is understood by the community where we stand.
- e. Other opportunities - We may wish to brainstorm about issues that we wish to address.

6. Other Business (that may properly come before the Committee after agenda is posted)
 - a. Mr. Adams said that *Dr. Jean McGuire*, a leading Metco activist, was stabbed while walking her dog, and is on the mend. There is an outpouring of love and support going out to her, and our district will be sending something out to her as well.
 - b. Ms. Yasin wanted to offer thanks to Jessi Finnie from Scituate Town Library and the SSB to make the Scituate Town Library fine free for late books.

7. Administrative

- Future Meeting Dates - November 15, December 13. Select Person Curran will check about what the next meeting dates will be for the SSB so we can plan for the new year.

8. Close Meeting and Adjourn - Motion made by Chairperson Secaur to close the meeting at 7:40pm. Seconded by Ms. Yasin.

Roll call vote - unanimous approval:

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

List of Documents:

- SDEIC Project Plan 10 13 22 - Tom Secaur

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Yasin