

TOWN OF IPSWICH MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Human Rights Commission

Tuesday, March 28, 2023: 7:00 – 8:30PM; Ipswich Town Hall; Conference Room C (2nd Floor)

MINUTES

~Time	Agenda Item	~Allocation
7:00 PM	<p>1. Call to Order</p> <p>Attendance: C.Sweeney, J.Duff, H. Leonard, D. Schiano, S. Schiffer Absent: C. Donehew, N. Mazer, A. Markos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading/ Acceptance of 2/21 Minutes (please pre-read) Motion to accept: HL, 2nd, CS, all in favor	10min
7:10PM	<p>2. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select Board discussion – openings<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Consideration of the applicants, & an opportunity with two new members to begin a stronger relationship between IHRC & Select Board2. SS will attend 2nd April meeting of Sel Board, anyone else available welcome to join• Team Headcount & Term Limits<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As follow up and next steps to direction of team operations, and lack of a solution from Town. Email/ formal letter to town with IHRC team position on best operating practice. Next steps toward approval of our charge. CS to draft/ present team to view & lend feedback2. Term limits for 3 members this June. Two of the effected team members serving currently as Co-Chairs. Adjustment to team headcount will help adjust the term definitions• Team Meeting with Town Mgr S. Crane, and Asst Town Mgr, M. Gallivan<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Team Headcount, Term Rotation & Appointed by SB or Twn Mgr?2. Town endorsement of IHRC publications, purpose & efforts behind inclusion and equity; first up Juneteenth/ Pride flags for Library/ Town Hall, June 20233. Relying on Town endorsement of <i>future</i> planning. IE statements against hate crimes & social injustice, Logo contest & collateral that will incorporate, Monthly observance participation & town displays (Juneteenth, Pride, & other collective observances), possible IHRC 5K in Fall 20234. Response to team inquiries – understanding workload & time constraints – is it better to set a standing bi-monthly update w/ chairs? (zoom or live) Or continue via email communication?• Massachusetts State Flag<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A warrant will be presented at Town Meeting on May 9th for Ipswich to endorse a change to the current state flag2. HL to provide link to the language contained in the warrant (work in progr) https://www.ipswichma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15352/DRAFT-May-2023-ATM-Warrant-03-28-2023?bidId=3. Stacey Keane Blagg presented the opportunity & history to IHRC asking that we help raise awareness toward the initiative, and education behind the current flag's aspects & offensive visage4. Education based article to chronicle regarding the issue & initiative5. Submit IHRC point of view to the Select Board6. Possible participation/ attendance of a tribe rep (Massasoit) for firsthand perspective	30min
7:40 PM	<p>3. Follow Up Topics & Updates from 3/14 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IHRC Logo Contest<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Not currently an urgent priority, but to move forward with collateral, education publications, banners for public event participation, will need a final logo.	30min

Internal

- **Juneteenth/ Pride Flag**

1. Town Engagement & Points of guidance – SS to provide detail on when North Shore Juneteenth Association will have in stock/ price, and turn around on obtaining flags

- **Affordable Housing,**

1. How can IHRC be more involved & form a stronger relationship
2. SS will attend the next meeting as Ipswich Housing Partnership meets early morning on a weekday

8:10 PM

5. Next Meeting Proposed New Business & Follow Up

10min

- Updates on Jenny Slew Dedication
- Update on Logo Contest, keeping on the radar
- Time frame for next Active Bystander Training for Ipswich
- **CS** to send out an email “vote” for first April meeting, then during that meeting provide the proposed bi-weekly schedule for Q2 2023
- Discussion of Fall 5K.

8:20 PM

6. Citizen Query 10min

- **Jenny Slew Park dedication.** Red Tape and unnecessary constraints on next steps due to inaccurate information and associated due diligence. Wrong address was provided regarding the intended parcel and has delayed timing w/ no ‘answer’ to expectations from town management. Select Board somewhat dismissive at the formal request during February 20th meeting
- **RARE disease month & town endorsement** of 'RARE' sign on town hill delayed and unsuccessful due to delay in receiving approval from Town Counsel and ultimate disapproval by Town Manager. Town Manager apprehensive about approving any type of messaging out of concern for attracting "bad actors" ("RARE" sign display was ultimately welcomed by First Church community). Discussion ensued regarding concern with future approvals of advocacy speech and signage throughout the community/use of town property and lack of support from Town Manager. Discussed need for formal discussion with Town Manager.

8:35 PM

7. Adjourn: motion: CW/ 2nd: DS/HL, all in favor