



ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Tuesday, August 11th, 2020

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87080837936?pwd=aVQxQ1VxMERKbIRrVUFOK2pNZGZBQT09>

Time: 6:30-8pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members: Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, and Mac Borgellas; Chairperson: Laurie Sawyer.

Business:

1. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting.
2. Welcomed new members Ashley Stewart and Mac Borgellas, discussed process of getting sworn in. They will be on the Zoom call as presenters at the September meeting after their on boarding process is complete.
3. Will approve July's meeting minutes at the September meeting.
4. Laurie provided an update on the incident report submitted by the resident detailing her allegations of prolonged abuse by her neighbor. Laurie reached out to Sargent Graney of the APD and he responded stating that after investigating the allegations, they determined them to be unfounded. Laurie reached out to the resident and left a voicemail, but has not received a response.
5. Discussed a Mansfield business owner's personal social media that was heavily Islamophobic, homophobic, and transphobic. Steve reached out to the town manager and the police department to report her posts and the allegations of hate speech at her place of business.
6. Affordable housing workshop – can the council host a forum or workshop focused on highlighting programs for low income and racial minority populations to secure housing in Attleboro, whether through rent or mortgages?
 - A. Mac is a property manager at low income housing developments in Attleboro, he will compile some information for us
 - B. Stephanie will connect with other interested members to begin brainstorming and working on getting this started

7. Barbara asked if Attleboro residents are protected from eviction due inability to pay their rent because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - A. Ashley provided that the CARES Act protects residents until October 17th unless it is extended. Residents do not need to pay their rent or mortgages if they are not employed.
8. Anti-Racism Agenda
 - A. We do not have an update from Mayor Heroux on his response to our anti-racism recommendations. Laurie followed up with Mayor Heroux already and will do so again.
 - B. Can/should we conduct a poll in the community about how they would like to see Attleboro address systemic racism and white supremacy?
 - C. Announcement of the Be Heard Coalition's town hall community meeting on anti-racism on August 19th and September 16th.
 - D. Thin Blue Line flag discussion
 - E. Anti-racism subcommittee
 - i. There are concerns that dedicating a subcommittee would be a distraction
 - ii. We can discuss ideas and vote on actions at the monthly meetings. Then members can meet outside of the monthly meetings to continue the detail work.
 - iii. Laurie will find out how many people can meet at one time without violating open meeting law.

Action Items:

1. Begin work on housing forum
2. Follow up with Mayor Heroux about anti-racism recommendations

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 from 6:30-8pm