

## **Groton Diversity Task Force**

### **Minutes**

September 3, 2020

**Present:** Ni-Ama Akuete, Josh Degen, Deb Dowson, Rafael Glod, Nadia Madden, Tim Manugian, Raquel Majeski, James Moore, Paul Shay, Audra Waiters.

Also present: Mark Haddad, Groton Channel

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Question: When will the first in-person meeting be?

Other business:

Mr. Glod noted that he had received a message on FB from someone who wants to know more about our first meeting. Suggest that we designate a spokesperson to talk to the media, or refer all questions to Chair Majeski

**Motion:** All media inquires to be directed to Raquel Majeski as the Chair of the Diversity Task Force

**Moved/Seconded/Voted Unanimously to approve.**

### **A. Establish Various Working Groups to Address Issues**

Chair Mejski and Ms. Waiters sorted out our suggested work for the task force into three buckets: action, policy, and vision and presented it to the group:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1weA0rgvjtmSydq1Lx6O88SH5pPqTO61IHunqQMjM5yQ/edit#gid=0>

The committee discussed the possible ways to approach the items.

Suggestions to combine communications and transparency with accessibility

Suggestion to increase diversity at senior ranks and question about civilian oversight of the police. Mr. Degen noted that the police are overseen by the Town Manager on a day-to-day basis, and formally by the Select Board. We may need more clarity about the existing policies.

Suggestion to bring in some of the senior people in the town to address various issues.

Discussion of making suggestions for the GDRSD system, which could be sensitive as the Select Board does not have a direct say over the School Committee.

Ms. Majeski noted that the task force could do its own research and also bring in experts from the town.

Mr. Glod noted that he sits on the GDRSD policy and curriculum subcommittees and offered to bring information to the committee.

Ms. Majeski proposed that our next meeting be about unpacking policy.

**B. Discuss and Review Potential Changes to the Charge of the Committee**

**C. Set Regular Meeting Schedule**

Next meeting will be at Sept 17th, at 7pm

**D. Other Business**

Mr. Degen proposed a warrant article that Groton is no longer and never will be a sundown town should any policies exist in Groton Town Law. Town Counsel responded that there are no sundown regulations in town laws at this time, and recommended that the warrant article has no legal purpose and should not be considered at town meeting. They suggested the Board has already made a declaration against Groton being a sundown town.

**Moved: Voted unanimously in favor.** The Diversity Task Force recommends that the Select Board move forwards with the warrant article to remove Groton as a Sundown town, irrespective of the advisory of Town Council.

**Meeting Adjourned @8:18pm**