

Plymouth No Place For Hate Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023
Zoom @ 7:00 PM

Attending Members: Barbara Aharoni, Michelle Badger, Vedna Heywood, Susan Moore, Sarah Sibley, Jon Plate, Peter Matlon, Betsy O'Connell, Suzanne Goldberg, Katherine Jackson

Attending Associates: Ken Dicks, Nance Morse, Andrea Plate

Visitors: Malachi Harris, Sandy Bielawa, Kathy Marks

Call to Order: 7:02 PM by Chair who welcomed the attendees.

Chair Report: Coalition Meeting about an incident in Mashpee schools, deep dive into what happened. Peter asked if the report was received by Vedna and whether or not it would be worth sharing as a guideline here. Vedna stated that it can be used as a case study to talk about how the incident was handled. Peter agreed.

In June there will be a reorg of the committee, Vedna will step down as chair and committee member as well. This was one of the only committees that did not have term limits. The town will allow people to come off in a tiered fashion but there will be term limits as of the fall. Michelle is stepping down in June also. Michele is happy to help in an outside role. Stating now so that people can have time to think about their role. Indivisible Plymouth is having an event and talking about civic engagement, they wanted us involved, a good place to maybe record members. Saturday the 21st of January. Vedna will provide more information once she has it. At PPL 2:30 to 4.

Barbara said once they step down there will be 5 open seats. In order to have a quorum we will need to fill some seats. She has the list of current members to give to Andrea to list on the website.

Michele had a conversation with Patti Fry to see if there is someone else to fill the second student role.

Minutes Review: Peter Matlon moved and Sue Moore Seconded

Treasurer Report: \$1,268.47 new balance reflects sales made at events. Reimbursed Nancy and Jon for expenses they paid. We have no encumbered funds for the Citizenship award. We want to start thinking about that for raising funds for the upcoming spring. Barbara accepted report; Michelle seconded

Liaison Reports

- Police: N/A
- Select Board: N/A
- Library: N/A
- School: N/A
- OCA: Jon says that he typically sends materials on the award out to contacts that he has this time of year. Asked the group for permission to do so. Are we committing to funds toward this award? We have always voted to give funds to all nominees. Previously, prior to COVID, they were raised at the coffee house. Do we want to wait to table until later in the meeting or next meeting at the latest? Vedna received the report from Ken regarding budgeting so asked to speak about it next month to dedicate time to this next month. Jon added a few years there have been funds designated but other times members have made up the difference. Peter asked about how nominations work. A press release is sent to OCM and Jon sends out a flyer and application to various contacts in the schools including charter schools. Rev. Marks asked if it was a scholarship. Jon answered no for 2 reasons, scholarships are available to seniors. Michele posted criteria from the Website in chat.
- PAICA: PAICA is growing. New clergy from Cranberry Hospice is Lauren Coleman. The new interfaith chaplain at BIDP John Curtis, also Pastor Bruce, and Pastor Alicia is new to the group. Also included is Coalition for homeless have 3 churches this year. Now meeting on the 3rd Tuesday. Barbara asked if all 3 shared cots. Susan said she thought they all had enough.
- LWV: Kathy mentioned an event with Brazilian Community
- Media: Michelle thanked people who provided content, there is some to reuse so she could use help with things to share, graphics would be great.

Learning Exercise: Sue said she was reliving her college days, wonderful to reminisce. Nancy said the same thing, she remembers living through all of this. Sarah mentioned that she should have included Embrace Boston, a documentary tonight on NBC about how the monument came about. Reverend Brown who spoke at Plymouth's last MLK Day breakfast was instrumental in bringing this together. Tomorrow is the unveiling and live stream on NBC lots of dignitaries attending. Very prominent location in Boston. Peter really appreciated the reading, it did bring back a lot of memories, emotional memories. Brought him back to reading a letter from Birmingham Jail. He heard MLK speak 2 times in person once in St. Jude on the fringe of Montgomery. The evening before the march into Montgomery and then again the next day on the steps of the state capital that ended with the memorable line of the arc of history. Very powerful. Ken thanked again. It reminds us not only of MLK anytime you read about him or his quotes. Letters from Birmingham jail were most impactful for Vedna. Speaks to the ability to be lukewarm and therefore complicit. Either you are in it or you are not.

Old Business

- MLK Day: Vedna just had a conversation with the reverend. There have not been a lot of people who signed up. She and Rev. Nurse put the poster together. This becomes an issue about whether we do this in person. Only 20 people have signed up. It may be the registration platform. He would like to go forward. The only issue is the cost of that. The person in charge of food called because they need to know. Vedna has spoken to the superintendent and to Mike Caple. More people are needed to be involved to pull this off going forward. Michele asked about the cost of the food. We have 490 on Eventbrite right now. Is that going to deplete our funds? The food is not the major cost, it is the building custodian and staff. The two cafeteria staff is 110.00 per hour. Peter thinks it would be terrible to cancel and would contribute funds. Have we contacted people who attended in the past? Could we send a message to them tomorrow? Vedna said it was a mix of churches as well as outside of Plymouth. We didn't keep the information of the previous attendees unless it is on Eventbrite. Has the Minister reached out to the congregation? The AME Church has a service right afterward. Rev. Nurse suspects people will come that day without registering. Barbara said 150 signed up and 162 came to the last one. Betsy said 180 registered with 18 no-shows. 2172.00 from event 150 peaker 414.60 building 1720 for staff food and cafeteria. We had a little loss and PAICA split that loss with us. Michelle said a lot of sales were through the churches not online. It was stated in the email that this was a breakfast that needed to be paid for. Not sure if parents will be paying or not. Barbara spoke about the timeliness and that people had 3 to 4 weeks to sign up in the past and that you need to know a week ahead of time. Barbara stated that we need more people to make this worth the money. Sent to the Coalition group next week. Going forward there should be someone in place to Chair that committee and more hands on board. The art department knew about this in August, the art was not fitting for the flyer so it was not used. Breaunna will be speaking as well as kids from South Elementary singing. As a virtual, the timing wouldn't work. The food is not the cost. It is the employees. Ken asked when a head count is needed, Vedna said by early tomorrow. 480 for food and 400 for facility and 1 person for food. Which would cut down on costs. Also need to give the speaker an honorarium, Vedna said she would give some to cover that. Reverend Nurse thinks that more of his congregation will be there. Betsy shared that in January 2020, the amount of food was left over. Even if there are 30 more people there would be enough food. She would run out to grab pastry if needed. The Kitchen accounts for 20 more people which is why there was a lot left over. The Kitchen wanted to know tonight. Nancy said go ahead and say 50 people. Michele motioned, and Susan seconded. Susan asked why do we have to pay for the building since we are a town committee. We are paying for the services, not the building itself. Sandy asked if we could do something on Social Media, Michele asked if we should put it on some of the Plymouth Facebook groups, etc. Ken asked if indivisible could help us with this as well. Dr. Campbell is putting a second blast out. Paica resent today. Also sent to PACTV. Jon and Sarah have T-shirts and donation jars. Betsy will bring centerpieces. Sarah has the banner. What if there is a shortfall how will it be covered? Michele mentioned that we have the money Peter mentioned that there are a number of us that would be willing to contribute and toward the backfill. Nancy mentioned that if we sell 50 tickets then it is 750.00 and if we sell some T-shirts we should be okay. We can also have the donation buckets on the table. Vedna showed the agenda.
- PACTV PSA: We were going to read out the mission like last time. We were sent a script of what others have done. Should we go over history? After looking at other examples. The taping is on the 20th. Kathy suggested that she thought that would be great to create a narrative. Vedna agreed and said we would have photos to include. Andrea said we may want to mention that this committee was instrumental in getting the town to sign the pledge so they know it is the town and not just the committee. And then the website and time at which we meet. Peter said also a sentence or two about the need that we respond to. What problem are we solving? Be frank about many forms of racism including here in Plymouth.
- Hybrid Meeting: Sarah mentioned that when she and Vedna were at HR at town hall, the room they used to use is fitted for virtual so Hybrid would be possible now if people want to. Would have to check the availability of the time slot. Peter motioned that we move toward hybrid and Susan seconded.

New Business: Spring programming. Barbara asked for information from Rabbi Mills for town-wide Holocaust observance is on the 18th of April and it is a weeknight. Barbara asked about going forward with the coffee house. She would just need to make some phone calls for April 22 is earth day and the day after Ramadan or the 29th of April. Kathy mentioned that school vacation starts on the 22nd. Nancy said she thought May is better. May 6th is the tentative date we are moving forward with. Barbara will move forward with that and have a second day for the 13th of May. Barbara will follow up with Rabbi Mills. Jon mentioned that we should form a subcommittee, Jon, Suzanne, and Sue will be on the subcommittee. Jon suggests when we have a date send it to the subcommittee set a date for the meeting and send an early and a closer press release.

Vedna shared the flyer for MLK AME Church service.

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45. Barbara motioned, Jon seconded

Respectfully submitted by Recording Co-Secretary,
Katherine Jackson