

Indigenous Peoples Day Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Remote via ZOOM

Minutes

Committee members present: Arthur Conquest, Maya Norton, Larry Onie, Felina Silver Robinson (left at 4 PM), Kea van der Ziel, Raquel Halsey (joined at 3 :35 PM); Caitlin Starr (ODICR), Raul Fernandez (Select Board, left at 4 PM), Todd Kirrane (DPW)

No members of the public present

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

1. Todd Kirrane, present to discuss possible land acknowledgement and other issues. DPW worked with ODICR and others in town on commemoration of Pride Day in June 2019 with a re-envisioning of the public way. This involved collaboration between many groups to come together to paint various crosswalks in town in a community event that was well received. Due to COVID this past June, the painting was not a community event but was done by the DPW. Salem has done something similar as has the Longwood Medical Area. Todd was able to view the IPD events at the JFK Library this year and wonders about having circle ceremonies at various locations in town, such as traffic roundabouts, like that seen at the Library and put on by other municipalities. Raul and Raquel will take lead on working on a land acknowledgement, whether it needs a warrant article or can just be accomplished by talking to the Town Moderator. They will also consider what form it should take. The importance of need to address not only the atrocities against the Indigenous population but also the atrocities perpetrated through enslavement of others, recognizing the past harms and dignity of those still here. The possibility of singing not only the National Anthem, but also the Black National Anthem (Lift Every Voice and Sing) was raised. These efforts should be used to inform the public about why this matters to all if us.
2. Minutes of 12/10/2020 meeting approved unanimously by all 6 committee members
3. Upstander update – Maya. Still no summer schedule. Deadline to apply is March. Possible funding sources remain Brookline Community Foundation and Brookline Education Foundation. Caitlin is unaware of other funding sources.
4. No update from Barbara Brown or Ken Liss, although Barbara Brown had written some months ago that there were 7 enslaved Native Americans who were transported to the Caribbean to be sold into slavery, along with one of their wives who wanted to stay with her husband.
5. Brief discussion of hiring a consultant to the Town and Schools, in a coalition with other local communities. Raquel to explore this. This is an idea from Cultural Survival,
6. Noted that IPD appears on the Town Calendar along with Columbus Day (CD). The Schools list only Indigenous Peoples Day. Need to explore why this is the case. The reason given is that it is still a state and national holiday. May also be written in to contracts with employees. Do we need another warrant article to abolish CD? We will ask Ann Braga of Human Resources to attend our next meeting to discuss. NAICOB will continue to work on IPD at the state level. Tommy Vitolo had supported the town IPD resolution but had not supported the State effort. Kea to talk to him some more about this and to ask Ann Braga to attend next meeting. The bill to study the State Seal and Flag was made into law in the last legislative session.
7. Next meeting, Tuesday 2/16 3 PM and following meeting 3/16 at 3 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM