

BROOKLINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023  
(ONLINE VIA ZOOM)  
MEETING MINUTES

1. (7 pm) Administrative details: Attendance – Ms. Silver Robinson, Ms. Stillman, Ms. Stone, Ms. Caro, Ms. Garodia, Ms. Lee. Absent – Ms. Kaushik, Ms. Margolis, Ms. McClelland, Dr. Chie. Administrator: Ms. Starr.
  - a) Vote to approve minutes from meeting of Feb. 2, 2023: Ms. Stone made small corrections to February 2023 minutes. Correct edit was made on the spot. Vote to move the amended February meeting minutes by Ms. Caro, seconded by Ms. Stillman. Approved by all commissioners.
  
2. (7:05 pm) Public Comment – No attendees.
  
1. (7:10) Discussion and possible vote on letter to Select Board regarding Pay Equity study – BCW commissioners had voted in last meeting to send a letter to the Select Board inquiring about how and when you were going to be following up on this report and how BCW can support the Select Board in this process. At this time, Ms. Stone shared that she did not have a draft to share due to being tired up by other more immediate commitments. Ms. Stone and Ms. Silver Robinson will work together to complete make this draft.
  
2. (7:15) Updates on working groups & sub-committees:
  - a) Reproductive Working Group: Repro Health Safe Haven article – Ms. Stone read a hopeful article on the discussion about the ruling of Mifepristone from the Texas court judge. Attached is the link to the article: <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2023/02/texas-judge-abortion-case-actually-limited-mifepristone.html>
  - b) WA is certified and will be voted on at the May Town Meeting. Ms. Stone is lead petitioner on behalf of the Commission for Women. A draft was reviewed by Town Counsel and staff at REN, and so some of the language was removed that had been borrowed from City of Salem ordinance, but the article retained the core point of protecting local providers and local or out of state patients seeking pregnancy care and reproductive care in the town of Brookline from harassing litigation, which aligns with what was passed as the State law. Ms. Stone reported that 25 of the needed signatures were from TMMs, so she is confident the WA will be well received by Town Meeting.
  - c) Town Meeting Warrant review: forming an ad hoc preliminary view working group. Ms. Stone shared that all WAs will be certified by the end of this month (March) or in the next couple of weeks. This working group will have time to review the WAs that will be relevant or have invested interest in BCW to discuss in the April meeting and the petitioners of these WA can be invited to BCW May's meeting to share more about the details of their WA. Ms. Silver Robinson, Ms. Stillman, Ms. Caro and Ms. Stone will be part of this working group.

- d) Recruiting new commissioner – Ms. Silver Robinson shared that she has many different people in mind to invite to consider joining the BCW. Recruitment is generally done through sharing with the public that BCW is looking for members, making it more known that there is an opening in the commission. Putting it out on listserv, the town sends out openings in the Town, or go to events. When people do reach out to show interest in joining us, they can chat with any one of the commissioners, and then they can go through the application process. BCW has a Mission Statement, Facebook page and a website. At this time, we have one opening.
  - e) Discussion and vote on future meeting location preference: discussed preferences for future meeting, when it is in person. The preferred, and voted on, locations are first choice is Room 103 and/or Denny Room. These rooms are reserved based on first come first serve basis. Ms. Starr will book the room for the next meeting. At this time, it is still not confirmed, by state law, that we can still keep meeting via Zoom. The next agreed upon meeting date will be on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Starr reminded the commission that whatever form of meeting that will be posted on the calendar is what the commission has to do, regardless of when the laws become confirmed.
3. 5. (7:30 pm) Closed Session: Woman of the Year nominations  
The BCW will adjourn after its WoY discussion and will not return to open session.  
Discussion to vote on who the honorees will be for this year's WoY. Discussion on the logistics of planning this event and who will be responsible for what tasks.

**Meeting Ended at 8:12pm.**

Please note that listed times are approximate.