

Brookline Commission for Women  
Special Session March 23, 2021 4:15 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Rebecca Stone, Meenakshi Garodia, Carol Caro, Aileen Lee, Liz Stillman, Nicole McClelland, Felina Silver Robinson, and Lucy Chie

Commissioners Absent: Hadassah Margolis, Gloria Rudisch, Homa Sarabi

Others Present: Caitlin Starr (staff)

A quorum being present, Ms. Stone called the meeting to order and explained that we were voting to approve a public statement of support and solidarity with the Brookline AAPI community (see Appendix A).

Ms. Stone explained that the statement will be translated into Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese but that would delay release until Thursday. Commissioners agreed that waiting to release the statement until the translations were ready was worthwhile. Ms. Caro asked if we planned to translate into Hindi, but after discussion the decision was just to do the four languages mentioned.

Distribution will be through Facebook, the BCW website, TAB and Patch, and the statement will be sent to numerous boards/committees, Town Meeting Members, community organizations email lists, our legislative delegation, and ODICR distribution list. Ms. Stone asked commissioners with other ideas for outreach to email her. Ms. Lee noted that we should be thoughtful in the future figuring out languages for translation because the AAPI population is very diverse and speaks many languages.

Ms. Stone asked if there were any edits on the final draft that was circulated earlier today. Hearing none, a motion was made by Ms. Caro, seconded by Ms. McClelland to adopt the statement. It passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Lee reminded us that there would be a vigil at BHS at 4:00 p.m. both in person and online.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Appendix A: Statement as approved by BCW

*FINAL DRAFT*

*For vote by BCW 3/23/21*

*Statement of the **Brookline Commission for Women** in Solidarity with Our AAPI Community  
Condemning Anti-Asian Hate and Violence Against Women\**

In the wake of the tragic murders of eight people, including six Asian and Asian American women in Georgia, the Brookline Commission for Women stands in grief and solidarity with the AAPI community in Brookline and across the country. We unconditionally condemn anti-Asian xenophobia and racism, especially when it is manifested in violence toward women.

These horrific acts came at a time when AAPI communities were already grappling with the traumatic violence against Asians and those of Asian descent as we confronted the COVID-19 pandemic. Because violence against women rarely provokes an outraged response, and because of harmful stereotypes of Asian women historically, AAPI women are particularly vulnerable to this kind of violence. Hate incidents against Asian Americans rose by nearly 150% in 2020, with Asian American women twice as likely to be targeted. Over the past year, there have been at least [sixty-seven](#) reported incidents of anti-Asian hate just in Massachusetts.

We know that Brookline is not immune to this racism.

Anti-Asian hate is based in centuries of sexism, xenophobia, and racism in our country's laws and actions, from the [Page Act of 1875](#), to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, the forced migration of refugees from the U.S. military conflict in Southeast Asia, post-9/11 surveillance in Muslim and South Asian communities, and boycotts, vandalism, and harassment of Asian-owned businesses and proprietors during the pandemic. It must stop.

We believe that change will happen only if we consistently name, document, and stand up to inequality, discrimination, and aggression against women and girls. We do so today.

The Brookline Commission for Women will reach out, listen to, honor, and support the voices of AAPI members who feel silenced, marginalized, threatened, or ignored. And we will continue to work against racism and misogyny so that Brookline feels safe for everyone and all our families can thrive.

*\*The mission of the Brookline Commission for Women is to promote equity and justice for all women and girls, including all who identify as female.*