

draft 5/25/19

COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Minutes of Fair Housing Committee Meeting on April 23, 2019

Present: Bob Lepson, Jessica Chicco, Joan Lancourt, Sandy Batchelder

Guest: Andre Leroux

Absent: Lloyd Gellineau, David Guzman

The minutes of the December 2018, January 2019 and March 2019 meetings of the committee were approved.

There was a lengthy discussion with Andre Leroux, Executive Director of the MA Smart Growth Alliance, regarding how to build constituencies for affordable housing. Constituencies would produce advocates and create networks for affordable housing. Andre recommended the organization of social events aimed at young adults through Facebook and other social media. They typically took place in a bar with finger food furnished by the host committee and drinks purchased by the attendees. It would be necessary to recruit the host committee and one or more sponsors, such as a local bank. There would be no speeches but materials and signs would indicate who organized the event and provide a sign up sheet to capture contact data. Andre said these event capitalized on the desire of young adults to meet others and were almost always successful. An example would take place on May 15 at 6:30PM at Stone Lovin Pizza (?) on Beacon St. in Waban.

There was further discussion of the history of housing discrimination.

It was noted that BU was doing research on who participated in formulating housing policy.

It was also noted that a proposed warrant article for town meeting would encourage increased diversity in town meeting members. Should this also apply to commissions and committees of the town?

The fair housing video was not ready for viewing.

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for 6:30PM on Thursday May 31, 2019 in the second floor library of the Public Health building if available.

Minutes prepared by Sandy Batchelder.