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# Dennis Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

RECEIVED BY: *AT*  
Dennis Town Clerk's Office  
May 15, 2023 @ 9:23 a.m.

Monday, 04.03.2023

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## Attendees

Kate Martin  
Emily Entwisle  
Tamora Israel  
Kristina Caterino  
Larry Johnson  
Wayne Bergeron  
J. Marie Stevenson

## Agenda

### Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Quorum was not met at the last meeting.

### New Business

2. Kate Martin moved to approve Feb. 6 2023 minutes.
3. Tamora Israel seconded the motion.

## Notes

- Spring Listening event is scheduled for May.
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- Larry Johnson visited Dennis Union Church. He talked to Jane Wilson about a contract with DDEI and the church.
- DDEI is expecting between 15 and 20 people on the second or third Wednesday of the month. The church will provide tables and chairs. Renting fees were waived for the committee.
- Larry has made an application for new members of the DDEI.
- Communi-T Productions could photograph the listening session.
- DDEI needs to make a presentation to the town for funding, printing costs associated with the listening session.
- Larry attended the Dennis Rotary meeting at Grumpy's.
- J. Marie, chair of the Mashpee diversity inclusion in Mashpee joined the meeting. How we can help each other is a question she asked.
- J. Marie shared her experience as the chair of Diversity and Inclusion and the Anti-defamation League with the committee. When the Mashpee town committee was initiated they started to create a committee that mandated people are voted in. They ended up deciding to have a committee of nine voting members on their diversity committee. That way they would always have a quorum of 5. They had to describe what diversity is to their community. They had to define what their purpose was.
- The committee should find out if the DDEI school representative needs to be 18 years of age to be on the committee?
- DDEI is to reach out to the D/Y Principal to see if the school would help find a voting member for the committee. The Mashpee school Principals helped find two students to be on their committee, J. Marie shared. Mashpee diversity committee looked for Juniors so students could be with their committee for two years.
- From day one Mashpee had a professional secretary placed on their board to record the meetings, J. Marie said.
- Should DDEI ask the town of Dennis for a secretary for the committee?
- Mashpee diversity committee is on the town website. They did a talking head piece about how they were created. They can go on their website and talk about how they were created.

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- As we become a presence in the committee the community will begin to come to us as a committee, J. Marie said.
  - The Mashpee diversity is the entity that produces Race Amity day. This is a yearly event and a large production that they do for their town.
  - Mashpee received grants from Cape Cod 5 for a project called “Who We Are” to interview and photograph immigrants from other countries. 14 different countries were represented in that project.
  - There are resources that DDEI can reach out to the town libraries, town school system, and the faith community.
  - DDEI could reach out to the Woods Hole Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee to talk about the listening session.
  - Mashpee diversity committee developed a brochure for their committee.
  - J. Marie was able to squeeze out some funds for the volunteer committee; they have a human services person that is one of the former members of the old committee.
  - Larry has made a budget and we can discuss the budget at a further date and meeting time.
  - Dennis Housing Coordinator for the town of Dennis, Maggie Spade-Aguilar joined the meeting.
  - Maggie Spade-Aguilar shared the town warrant articles for two projects. Article 34 and Article 35. 187 Depot Street in Dennis, to build affordable housing.
  - Maggie has been preparing a presentation on affordable housing.
  - Maggie came to the DDEI meeting to alert the committee about Article 34 and 35 and ask people to support the articles. Subsidized renting housing authority that counts as affordable housing.
  - The Article has been on the housing Board of Selectboard for a while, Maggie said.
  - Maggie was hired by the town for the Affordable Housing Trust. She is the Housing Coordinator. She has been learning about the town and the relationships between funding and working on specific projects. She does not have a staff, she’s with the planning office.
  - Kate Martin made a motion to approve the contract between Dennis Union Church.
  - Tamora seconded the motion.

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- Tamora Israel motioned to adjourn the meeting Kate Martin seconded.

## Action Items

1. The committee will meet on April 24 to narrow down everything needed for the May listening session.
2. DDEI could meet in the Prue room or back in this room.
3. Emily Entwisle motioned that each member will prepare two draft questions to ask the community. A conversation starter to get the community involved.
4. Larry suggested each person get 5 minutes to talk at the listening session.

## Next Meeting Agenda Items

5. Next meeting is April 24 and may be held at the Dennis Union Church.