

**Minutes**  
Town of Farmington, CT  
Human Relations Commission  
Hybrid In-Person/Online Web Conference  
June 28, 2021  
5:30 pm

**Commission Attendees**

Jay Tulin  
Andrew Arboe  
Anne Newbury  
Donna Mambrino

**Town of Farmington**

Nancy Parent (Community & Rec Services)

**A. Call to Order**

Tulin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**B. Public Comment**

None.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

A motion made and seconded (Mambrino, Newbury) to approve the minutes from May 24, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved.

**D. Reports**

1) Chair Report

- a. ADL Walk against hate is October 10, 2021, with the intent to call attention or participate in the event this year.
- b. Tulin would like to resume presentations by the Fall 2021 and will confirm with presenters after the meeting.
- c. Tulin discussed the three bills about hate crimes that he is advocating for - two of the three bills passed.
- d. Last Thursday (June 24, 2021), Tulin & Nancy participated in statewide forum and discussed the Needs Assessment, Advocacy Program, Village Center, high school project among other topics within the Town.
- e. Affordable Housing Plan draft that has been submitted. There is proposed language to add universal design provisions to the zoning regulations. TPZ has a public hearing July 12, 2021 to speak about the Affordable Housing plan, and plans to testify at the hearing.
- f. Universal Human Rights day is December 10, 2021. Tulin hopes to plan something for this day.
- g. Citizens Coalition for equal access has started meeting again
  - i. Pedestrian Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines discussed.
  - ii. Resolution 3684 – finalizing the guidelines is important and hopefully the section will be passed by the House of Representatives to move to the senate. If it passes, the Commission will discuss down the road.

- 2) Department Of Social Services
  - a. Nancy spoke about the concerts & movies being a success. Also stated changing the place from the gazebo to the front of Farmington High School has been successful with more room to be able to spread out and away from main roads.
  - b. Recreation camps have been very successful
  - c. Senior Center has a waitlist for activities. People are looking to get out and socialize while the weather is nice.
- 3) Dial A Ride was approved to increase the number of riders.
- 4) Low vision has been added to the schedule for the end of the summer.
- 5) Racial Equality Task Force has held four community conversations, developed plans/language as part of the strategic plan, over summer will declare racism a public health crisis, working with economic structures, and a group working with the Town & Police about hiring diversity training. Great gains have been made and we are now working within the committee.
- 6) Discussed the Route 4 construction detour

## **E. New Business**

- 1) A motion was made and seconded (Mambrino, Newbury) to approve the meeting schedule for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- 2) A motion was made and seconded (Newbury, Arboe) to adjust the agenda schedule to move the report from September Voter Registration to item number two in the Old Business agenda.

## **F. Old Business**

- 1) Project updates
  - a. Building committee is meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant is part of the plan and will move forward.
  - b. Village Center update  
Sidewalks have been approved by the town but pending from DOT.
- 2) Report from September Voter Registration
  - a. Report will be September 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>, will need to confirm.
  - b. Barbara Brenneman & Anne Newbury will speak. Waiting to see if Paula Ray is available to speak.
  - c. Newbury will have the absentee ballots and will need people to help elderly fill out ballots.
  - d. A discussion was had about which date would be best.

- 3) Needs Assessment results and next steps
  - a. Parent spoke about the Racial Inequality Taskforce goals. The goals were split into categories and then decided which goals would be attained first.
  - b. Looked at each goal and decided the time frame, labor, costs, complexity, staff and task force needs etc.
  - c. Needs Assessment preliminary report had only 70 responses  
A discussion was had on the responses to each of the questions on the assessment. Parent has four categories for Task Force goals:
    - 1) Public recognition about the Task Force
    - 2) Education & information
    - 3) Networking
    - 4) Grievance procedure
  - d. Parent mentioned Town Manager (Kathy Blonski) would like the Human Relations Commission to take on vetting for letters that are received by the town on issues that are received. Develop tiers/levels and add in education/information to prioritize the letters. This is a way to take on the 2<sup>nd</sup> goal of “Education and Information” for the Task Force.
  - e. The commission discussed the framework of how this will be developed. Mambrino requested copies of letters that the Town receives to give a starting point of where to focus.
  - f. Parent provided some examples of letters and requests received in prior weeks. A discussion was had on how the Commission would handle each of those letters or requests.
  - g. A discussion was had about each of the four goals and how the Commission will proceed with each of them.
    - i. Two events for public visibility – September Voter Registration and Universal Human Rights Day.
  - h. Goal Plan from Needs Assessment will need to be formally adopted by the Commission at a future meeting.
  - i. Parent suggested adding a 5<sup>th</sup> Needs Assessment goal – Rules of Operation (social networking, etc.)

**G. Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded (Mambrino, Newbury) to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.