

Laconia Human Relations Committee  
Regular Monthly Meeting          June 14, 2021          3:30PM- 5:00  
City Hall Rm 200A also via Zoom

present:

(in person) David Stamps, David Osman, Janet Simon, Rev Judith Wright, Carol Pierce, Matt Soza, Trish Weatherbee,  
(on zoom) Margaret Donnelly  
Physical quorum established

Review and Acceptance of May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

motion to accept made by Matt Soza, seconded by Janet Simon, unanimous acceptance vote

Review and Acceptance of Year-to-Date Financial Report:

motion to accept made by Rev Judith Wright, seconded by Matt Soza, unanimous acceptance vote

### **Old Business**

•Homeless Task Force: no report

•Democracy Articles

High school students still preparing articles defining democracy. Will there be more articles from members of this committee? There has been positive verbal feedback from articles in paper, but no one is currently interested in writing an article.

Possible topics

What is the purpose of democracy?

Who is part of democracy?

What is a representative democracy?

•Holocaust and Genocide education

•Community Engagement Program (discussed together)

•Publication of Holocaust/Genocide Letter

Tom White of the Cohen Center in Keene and a member of the commission on Holocaust + Genocide Education has agreed to participating in a public forum and Holocaust + Genocide education, to include a panel with Kathy Preston, also a commission member, and Martin Rumscheidt.

Tom advised his available dates: Tuesday July 20, Wednesday July 21, Thursday July 22.

The forum will be the first of a series to encourage community members to talk about difficult subjects. It will be held at the Belknap Mill. It was also suggested to have films (like the Jonathan Daniels film from an earlier MLK Day Celebration) with panel discussions.

If the concept of a forum and lecture series works, let's go with it, there will always be issues to discuss. A forum draws people from the community into conversation. How can we include Native Americans in the genocide conversation? We need to begin with a single topic for focus. This is history, if interested, it becomes the hook for continued engagement in the community.

Letters and the forum are the first step, the beginning of a series.

Motions:

1          Approve the letter to the editor as edited to represent this committee's message to the community, to be published when date for forum has been determined.

Motion accepted, Carol Pierce, seconded, Rev Judith Wright: 7 yeas, 1 nay

2          Approve forum, with panel discussion, on one of the 3 July dates suggested by Tom White (20, 21, 22) to focus on subject of Holocaust + Genocide education bill?

Motion accepted, Carol Pierce, seconded Rev Judith Wright: unanimous 8 yeas

3          Expend \$125 for rental fee of Belknap Mill facility for forum?

Motion accepted Rev. Wright, seconded Matt: unanimous 8 yeas

4 Expend up to \$500 for food and advertising for forum event.  
Motion accepted, Matt Sousa, seconded David Osman: unanimous 8 yeas

**New Business**

Details of July forum to be discussed, decided at next committee meeting, 7/12/21.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm.