



CITY OF DOVER

COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION – APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall**
Meeting Date: **Thursday, August 24, 2023**
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

Regular Members: 9

Kathleen Blake; Whitney Carrier; Cora Quisumbing-King; Lina Shayo; Sophia Robison, Councilor Linnea Nemeth, City Council Ex-officio; Maggie Fogarty, School Board Ex-Officio;

Alternate Members: 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

Lina called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Lina Shayo, Kathleen Blake, Maggie Fogarty, Linnea Nemeth, Cora Quisumbing-King, Whitney Carrier

Also present: Mike Joyal

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kathleen read the Land Acknowledgement.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

The June 15, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens were present.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Members welcomed Whitney Carrier as a new committee member.

Members unanimously agreed to dismiss Sofia Robison from the committee as she has not been in attendance beyond her first meeting and has not responded to communication from this committee.

7. CURRENT EVENTS

The Racial Unity Team is seeking a new Executive Director. [Read more here.](#)

Black Lives Matter Seacoast will host their 4th annual gala on September 30, 2023 in Dover. [More information here.](#)

New England BIPOC Fest will take place in Portsmouth on September 24, 2023. [More information here.](#)

On July 15, the Black Heritage Trail of NH installed a marker in honor of Nellie Brown Mitchell at the entrance to the Pine Hill Cemetery. A welcome reception was hosted by Dover Friends Meeting. [Read more here.](#)

Indonesian Independence Day was celebrated in Somersworth with a flag-raising ceremony in August. Dover will mark this anniversary with a flag raising in future years.



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The 10th annual Indonesian Festival will take place on September 16, 2023 in Somersworth. More information [here](#).

At their upcoming meeting on September 14, the NH Board of Education is expected to consider utilization of curriculum resources from Prager U, a conservative advocacy group. NH residents can contact the Board and/or attend the meeting in person to speak during public comment period.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Operating Rules – Members reviewed the recently approved operating rules for this committee, pointing out two typos (inclusion of the position of co-Chair which does not exist). The committee is comprised of 11 regular members, including ex-officio representatives from the City Council and the School Board, and up to two alternates.

Foraging/Harvesting Rights on Conservation Land: Kathleen said there is not much to report in the period of time since the Dover Conservation Commission met on June 12, 2023 and received a presentation by a representative of the Durham Conservation Commission. Commission meeting notes from August 14, 2023 do not record any further discussion of the matter. Kathleen would like to follow up with the Dover commission chairperson and hopes to help move this matter forward for City Council approval. This request is simply a formal declaration that describes current practice. Mike Joyal will inquire of the commission about the status of this request.

Heritage Commission – Cemetery: With regard to the name of a Dover cemetery previously known as “settlers cemetery,” Linnea reported that the Heritage Commission agreed that the name of the cemetery should acknowledge the accurate history by adding “English” or “European” to the name. We wish to express our gratitude to the commission; Linnea will deliver the message at the next meeting. The matter moves to the Cemetery Commission. Next meeting is in September; meets quarterly or twice a year. Linnea will confirm who is the Council liaison.

9. REVIEW & DISCUSS PENDING PROJECTS

Implementation Plan for work – Committee members reviewed Goal 2 of the Action Plan, which focuses on Community Building. What are our goals with regard to community building?

Members expressed a hope that Dover would be a venue for an increased number of diversity-related events, including a powwow, multicultural celebrations, and events hosted by groups such as the Black Heritage Trail and the Racial Unity Team. Hosting activities such as these will promote a sense of welcome, acceptance, openness and inclusion; encourage more collaborations; and broaden the narrative of who we are and what we can do. This committee doesn’t have capacity to create community events but can serve as a catalyst for partners and various entities who do.



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With regard to community engagement, and learning how community members with historically marginalized identities experience life in Dover, how can we create opportunities to hear voices that aren't usually heard? Reaching community members who aren't already actively participating in City activities will require thoughtful planning and organizing/outreach. Maggie will reach out to Michele Holt-Shannon from NH Listens for a conversation including Lina and Cora to explore such a process and to clarify our intentions and goals. Depending on Michele's availability, Maggie will also contact Molly Messenger. We will ask Michele and Molly to attend our September 28 meeting.

With regard to Goal 2.4, committee members clarified that this goal should not be about doing diversity training but should be about building communication and partnerships with the Dover Chamber of Commerce/area businesses to work together toward equity goals.

Committee members considered whether the \$10,000 in the City budget for equity work could be applied to community engagement work.

Committee members expressed a desire to partner with the Dover School District as they implement an equity plan.

We will continue to develop actions for Goal 2, and then consider next steps related to Goal 1 regarding municipal operations.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Members are encouraged to continue to invite community members to consider joining this committee.

To continue our engagement with Dover committees and commissions, look at this list and consider whether a committee member can attend a meeting on behalf of this committee: <https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/>

Ad Hoc Housing Committee has just been created. Ryan Pope, Housing Navigator for the City of Dover, is the staff lead. We can invite conversations about equity as it pertains to housing access.

11. ADJOURN

The committee adjourned at 9:02 PM.