



OBSERVER REPORT

Task Force Against Discrimination - January 10, 2022

LWVM Observer: Shari Pressman

Members in attendance via Zoom: Helaine Hazlett(co-chair), Anne Marie Hunter (co-chair), Chief Dennis King (ex-officio member), Deacon John Whipple, Scott Marcus, Alexis Earp (Student Representative), Reece Dahlberg, Diane Gora

Louis Meyi and Jay Morrison (liaisons to Marblehead Racial Justice Team)

Police Chief Report: Chief King reported that towns are working together to investigate incidents; extra protection will be in place at Jewish holidays; Upcoming Housing panel discussion with very strong panelists to discuss current situation and historical perspective in Massachusetts at a date TBA late in February; Fair Housing's input will be sought

Land Acknowledgement: Statement read acknowledging that Marblehead was built on land stewarded by the Naumkeag tribe; discussion ensued about final draft of statement and how frequently and at the beginning of which Town meetings, Boards and Committees TFAD would seek permission for it to be read; the Task Force can sponsor the article as a group; discussion ensued about how and whether to acknowledge the sub-committee that wrote the statement; Unanimous vote to go forward with a statement

Update on Marblehead Schools' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program:

Communitywide presentation scheduled for Thursday evening, February 10. DEI's mission statement will be read, teachers' presentations about how DEI is taught at each education level (elementary, middle, high school), multimedia presentations by students

Fundraising: Helaine noted the need for the Task Force to raise funds; it is a town-appointed committee with a fund for donations; she suggested a letter-writing campaign or a town mailing

Marblehead Racial Justice Team: Louis reported working with Lauren McCormack, Executive director of the Marblehead Museum and others on the DEI event scheduled for February 10.

He also noted the ongoing “Conversations on Race” at Abbot Library; the originator of the program, Mary Gardner, has left because of health issues; Pamela Bartlett has assumed leadership. .

On Monday evening, January 24, Reverend Seth Carrier-Ladd, the Unitarian Universalist Church minister, will lead a discussion titled “Calling Out Racism with Love”. See Abbot Library’s website for more information on upcoming Monday evening topics.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022