



OBSERVER REPORT

MARBLEHEAD TASK FORCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION: April 13, 2021

LWVM Observer: Shari Pressman

Members Present: Helaine Hazlett, Anne Marie Hunter, Deacon John E. Whipple, Loren Weston, Alexis Earp, Christopher Thompson, Candace Sliney, Reece Dahlberg

TFAD Book Read Discussion

This Will Be My Undoing: Chapters 1-5, led by Chris Buell, about the intersectionality of race and gender.

Discussion of Marblehead Juneteenth Celebration

Candice reported to School Committee about a Juneteenth celebration to include a banner and art program for each elementary school; banners will hang in each elementary school lobby and students will make their own flags. Patti Rogers, director of Abbot Public Library and a guest at the meeting, agreed to fly a Juneteenth flag at the library. Juneteenth is now a state holiday.

Updates About and Responses to Recent Incidents in Marblehead

Chief Picariello spoke about a blue swastika found on a rock on the public trail and a quarter-sized swastika found on a post at the JCC tennis courts. Both were eradicated and an investigation is underway. Marblehead Conservancy maintains the trail. No updates are ready from the independent investigators on the incident involving a former Marblehead police officer and a swastika on another officer's personal car.

Welcome to New Member Reece Dahlberg

The task force welcomes the expertise Reece brings to the committee.

Updates on Town and School Engagement

Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 12 in Marblehead; Christopher Thompson, one of the student representatives on TFAD, reported that “Diversify our Curriculum” has just begun at MHS; ten students, including four METCO students, will attend a virtual Team Harmony program

Update on Marblehead Coalition

Chief Picariello and Louis Mayi, a guest at the meeting and a member of the Coalition, agreed that the weaving of organizations is a positive sign because there is so much to do working toward justice for many groups of people. TFAD is a Marblehead Board of Selectmen appointed committee. The Board of Selectmen has opened a bank account for TFAD as it has for other appointed committees. Citizens are welcome to contribute to the fund.

Update on Indigenous People’s Day

The Task Force has received an anonymous gift to support Indigenous People’s Day. Several members of the TFAD will be on the Indigenous People’s Day Committee. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 8.

Fundraising

The committee will wait for a specific event to campaign for funds.

Additional Business

Members discussed how involved the committee should be to racial and other injustices in other communities in the United States.

Next Meeting and Action Item Review

May 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom