

## Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

### Regular Meeting June 13, 2024 at 6:30PM EST **DRAFT MINUTES**

We acknowledge that Barre City was developed on Sokoki Abenaki land, which the Western Abenaki nation never ceded, made treaty for, nor were they conquered. We aspire to create a space in our meetings that is inclusive, participatory and equitable. We acknowledge we all come from different experiences and that our experiences may be affected by racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, ableism and many other systems of oppression. We are here to address equity within the systems of our city in order to inform the City Council of our findings. We acknowledge that systemic inequities exist and do not debate the personal experiences of marginalized and underrepresented community members. With that in mind, it is important that we are thoughtful of the impact of our words on each other in this space.

Attendance: Ellen Kaye, Greg Quetel, Chris Roberts, Tracy Lewis

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM EST
2. Adjustments to the agenda
3. Minutes for March and April accepted unanimously
4. Old business:
  - Joelen and Greg attended the recent session and plans will be made for a fall session to complete that portion of the city's VCF grant. The mediation portion requires decisions from the City Council and is pending.
5. New business:
  - a. BADC executive director Aimee Green did not attend, Barre Partnership executive director Tracy Lewis did attend; Lewis welcomes working with the committee to bring positivity to the community and invites community members to contact them to promote events. Emily suggested presenting the Assessment tool to BADC and BP talk about the intersection of our work. - Report attached.
  - b. Create a presentation for Capstone, BADC, Barre Up, etc. to discuss the value of examining policies and procedures with an equity lens.
  - c. Greg raised the prospect of our committee assisting the city in bringing equity issues into the discussion of flood survival and how can the city do things in a way to combat the inequities, which still exist after a year. Renters at significant disadvantage due to landlords' lack of recovery efforts and ignorance of displacement information. What can we do to take stock of what survivors have been going through and to teach them how to be ready for the next time? What kind and where is the data collected during and after the flood? Very little protection for tenants, lack of adequate code enforcement and tax abatements are for owners, not renters.
  - d. Priorities list – introduced and edited, to be ratified at the next meeting for presentation to the council.
6. No public comment

7. Next meeting date: August 8, 2024

8. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,  
Joelen Mulvaney, Chairperson