

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

Minutes July 11, 2024 DRAFT

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.

1. Call meeting to order at 6:30, Attending: Committee Members Ellen Kaye, William Tuborg, Greg Quetel, Joelen Mulvaney. Liaison Rikk Taft
2. Adjustments to the agenda
3. Accepted minutes for March, April and June
4. Old business:
 - a. “Let’s Talk” series and mediation with council: The City Council has been unresponsive to our grant funded plan to conduct mediation with and between the committee and the council. Even though the council approved of the plan embedded in the city’s acceptance of the grant from the Vermont Community Fund. Joelen will meet with the VCF grant manager to resolve the issue should the council refuse to conduct the mediation. Kristi has agreed to use the last session a training for facilitators of the program in case that change in plan is acceptable by the funder.
 - b. Priorities list: discussed the use of enforcement by fine and how those potential fines should take into consideration an individual’s ability to pay. This would avoid excessive penalties including the potential for residents to lose their licenses or default on their other economic priorities. Greg added disaster preparedness to make sure those in the path of floods are ready
5. New business:
 - a. Discussed changing our approach to examining ordinances, policies and procedures by forming a working group specific to that purpose. In order to inspire the motivation to do good by the community the approach needs to include an education model
6. Visitors and public comment – none
7. Next meeting date: August 8, 2024
8. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Joelen Mulvaney, Chairperson

