



# ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

## MEETING MINUTES

### MEETING INFORMATION

**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**Location:** Zoom virtual

meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86321263412?pwd=Nk10eWgvTlc0dEV3enl6M0o5aDFBZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2126 3412, Passcode: **509818**

**Time:** 6:30-8pm

**Meeting Type:** Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

**Attendees:** ACHR members: Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, and Stephanie Gray. Laurie Sawyer, Chairperson.

Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting

- I. **VOTE:** Approve minutes from 8/18/2021 monthly meeting and 8/30/2021 special meeting
  - a. **YAY:** Barbara Clark, Laurie Sawyer, Mary Flaherty, Steve Berdos, and Stephanie Gray
- II. Action item review
- III. Review special meeting minutes from 8/30
  - a. Laurie told of complaint from residents of Section 8 housing relating to a raise in rent when income is higher than reported on application.
  - b. Barbara will call Paul Dumouchel from AHA to find out process for Section 8 benefits and how much residents owe.
  - c. Follow up w/ mayor
    - i. Needs assessment – what is the process for this assessment?
    - ii. How are they connecting residents with rental relief?
  - d. Reviewed body camera policy recommendations
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Laurie told of complaint from hard of hearing residents with limited access to the DoubleACS live broadcasts of city council and school committee meetings due to the lack of quality subtitles/interpreter.
    - i. Steve told of CART, a program used at his employer
    - ii. Mary will ask if the city uses a vendor for accessibility
    - iii. Stephanie will add database for accessibility complaints on the ACHR drive
  - b. Neighbors in Dialogue update
    - i. Next dates: 10/27 and 12/9
    - ii. Next topics: “Racial Disparities in Elections/Voting” and “How to be an Ally”
- V. Upcoming Events

- a. MCAD “Know Your Rights” with the ACoD: Wed, 10/13 at 7pm
    - i. Mary will make a graphic for the event
    - ii. Members can help advertise the event locally
  - b. Afghan refugee donation drive
    - i. Discussed attendees – Congressman Auchincloss will be attending and may bring media. Stephanie will come up with statements for media.
    - ii. U-Haul
      - 1. **VOTE:** Stephanie will contact Bay Coast Bank to ask about a donation for the U-Haul
        - a. **YAY:** Stephanie Gray, Barbara Clark, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Laurie Sawyer
      - 2. Steve will contact U-Haul to reserve one for the event
    - iii. Coverage/supplies
      - 1. Canopies
      - 2. Folding tables
      - 3. Trashbags
      - 4. Cardboard boxes
- VI. Social Media – Mary will share posts relating to Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. Barbara will call Paul Dumouchel from AHA to find out process for Section 8 benefits and how much residents owe.
- 2. Stephanie will email Mayor Heroux and ask
  - For details on the housing needs assessment
  - How the city is connecting residents with rental relief
- 3. Mary will make a graphic for the MCAD “Know Your Rights” event.
- 4. Stephanie will draft some media statements for donation drive.
- 5. Mary will ask if the city uses a vendor for accessibility.
- 6. Stephanie will add database for accessibility complaints on the ACHR drive.
- 7. Stephanie will contact Bay Coast Bank to ask about a donation for the U-Haul.
- 8. Steve will contact U-Haul to reserve one for the event.
- 9. Mary will share posts relating to Hispanic Heritage Month. (9/15-10/15)

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm