

Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee

Wednesday October 18, 2023

7:00pm

Medway Public Library

26 High St Medway, MA 02053

Conference Room

A. Call to Order: 7:07

a. Roll Call

Present was Cher Hamilton, Margaret Perkins, Jo-Ann Venezia, Cindy Sullivan, Glenn Trindade

Not present was Liam McDermott (resignation effective immediately), Angelica Crosby

Also present: Justin Tucker (secretary), Carol Collard (Medway Community Farm), Ella Vargas (High School student)

B. Public Comment

There was no public comment made.

C. Approve minutes 8/13/2023: Approved unanimously by the Committee

D. Opportunity to collaborate with the Community Farm- Carol Collard

Ms. Collard, president of the Board of Directors for Community Farm, was present and explained they would like to hold a cultural event, a blessing of the farmland, on May 4, 2024. Ms. Collard stated they are proposing to work with the Wollomonuppoag Tribe from Attleboro. Ms. Collard stated that Darryl Jamison of the tribe will MC the event. Ms. Collard also stated that Karen Marshall, of Native Kitchen in Medway, will provide native food. There will be native crafts, dancing, singing, and storytelling at the event. Ms. Collard stated it would be a free event, but donations would be accepted. Ms. Collard stated there would be both native and non-native vendors. Ms. Collard stated they are seeking \$2000 in funding to support the event from the Indigenous People's Day Committee. Ms. Venezia stated that she felt this was a great opportunity that aligned with the Committee's ideals. Mr. Trindade stated that he was also a board member for the Farm and was comfortable voting on this, but if the Committee felt it was a problem for him to vote, then he would abstain. Ms. Venezia asked if the Farm would be interested in having the Committee help in other ways, like volunteering their time to assist in the event. Ms. Collard stated that spreading the word about the event would be very helpful. Ms. Collard stated that they were very interested in spreading the word at the schools specifically since it is a cultural event and they'd love to have students in attendance.

Mr. Trindade made a motion to approve the funding of \$2000 for the Blessing of the Farmland, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, and approved by all.

E. 2023 Event Overview

a. Story Walk- Library and Oakland Park

Ms. Venezia stated there has been a lot of good feedback about the Story Walk. Ms. Venezia stated that the only criticism received was that people wished more boxes were filled with content as they enjoyed the four that have been done. Ms. Venezia stated that one option for another box would be additional books displayed by indigenous authors with various types of books. Ms. Hamilton commented on the open house put on by the Historical Society. Ms. Hamilton stated they did a meet and greet last night with all the indigenous artifacts they have and people enjoyed and learned a lot. Ms. Venezia stated that Brittany, who has worked with the Committee in the past, was in attendance at the open house to bless the artifacts, and ended up speaking and sharing some information and suggestions. Brittany also provided some current day weaving to display in order to share the difference between what their ancestors did and what is currently being done by indigenous people. Brittany was joined by Elizabeth Solomon, an archaeologist, who also offered her expertise.

b. Walking Trail Tour October 28th, 2023 10:00am- Rain Date 11/19/2023

Ms. Venezia stated she may reach out to Carol Collard to attend and collaborate with Mr. Wickis to help guide the information they'll provide. Ms. Venezia stated she will share the flier with members of the Committee to start spreading the word of the Walking Tour. The Committee brainstormed information to include on the flier including the length of the walk, accessibility, purpose of the walk, and duration among other things.

F. Plaque location and wording at Choate Park

Ms. Venezia stated the Committee should aim to put a plaque at Choate Park acknowledging the indigenous people that have come before since Medway had many different tribes that used to occupy the local land. Mr. Trindade stated the idea would need to be run by the Parks Department and he would reach out.

G. Opportunities for Historical Society and Native Ancestral belongings

Ms. Venezia stated that Brittany and Ms. Solomon expressed it would be appropriate for the artifacts from the Historical society to be returned to the tribe from which they originated, while acknowledging that they do belong to the Historical Society. Ms. Venezia stated there was talk of collaboration to help find out the origins. The Committee discussed being sensitive to posting pictures of some of the artifacts that they were advised shouldn't be seen by the public and will remove any photos in the Storywalk boxes.

H. Promotion/ social media/ High school paper and news

Ms. Vargas informed the Committee about her attempts to inform the school about Indigenous People's Day facts and promoting events through their news and morning announcements. Ms. Vargas stated that they told her this information may be too controversial to be spread through the school's news network. The school welcomed Ms. Vargas to discuss information during Indigenous People's month since it is dedicated to that purpose. Ms. Vargas stated she is going

to talk to the school to see what events are allowed to be promoted in the school. Ms. Venezia stated that they are thinking of posting about legislation surrounding mascots and flags, etc.. and how to support it as well as any local events.

I. Budget 2023

Ms. Venezia stated the current budget is now around \$2500 for the rest of the year. Mr. Trindade will talk to Parks about places for a plaque and also find some preliminary prices.

J. Other:

Mr. McDermmott's resignation leaves 3 seats on the Committee for citizens at large.

K. Adjourn: 8:25