

Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee

Wednesday October 4, 2023

7:00pm

Medway Public Library

26 High St Medway, MA 02053

Conference Room

A. Call to Order: 7:06pm

a. Roll Call

Present was Cher Hamilton, Margaret Perkins, Jo-Ann Venezia, Cindy Sullivan, Angelica Crosby, Liam McDermmott, Glenn Trindade

Also present: Justin Tucker (secretary), Jim Wickis (Trails), Ella Vargas (High School student)

B. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

C. Approve minutes 8/13/2023

The minutes will be amended to correct the date to 8/30/23 and will be voted on at the next meeting.

D. Reorganization

a. Chair

Ms. Sullivan moved to keep Ms. Venezia as chair, seconded by Mr. Trindade, and approved by all.

b. Vice Chair

Ms. Sullivan moved to keep Mr. McDermmott as vice chair, seconded by Mr. Trindade, and approved by all.

E. 2023 Event

a. Story Walk-

- i. Ms. Perkins clarified that the Story Walk will happen at Oakland Park. Ms. Venezia stated they were hoping for a book by an indigenous author.

b. Walking Tour

- i. Library- Indigenous Authors and books available the library- Margaret Perkins Ms. Venezia stated they were thinking of having pictures of books that are available at the library with a small write-up about what each is about to be displayed in the box. Ms. Perkins will send book titles and a short write up to Ms. Venezia to organize the layout.

- ii. Trails- Identifying Native Plants, Mushrooms, Wildlife- Jim Wickis
Mr. Wickis informed the Committee of his background and expertise in identifying native and invasive plants and trees to the area. Mr. Wickis informed that native means plants and trees that were around before any European stepped foot in the area. Ms. Venezia stated the Committee was interested in doing a trail walk and asked Mr. Wickis if he would be interested in coming along and educating the group, which he stated he would. Ms. Venezia stated that eventually they would love to have native plants identified at the Amphitheater for when they have a sign made to landmark it. The Committee discussed a day that could work for a walking tour with Mr. Wickis. The Committee decided on October 28, 2023 at 10am for the nature walk with a rain date for November 18th. The walk would start at the Pavilion at Choate Park. The Committee discussed advertising the nature walk by getting out fliers and informing the schools about it. Ms. Crosby decided on taking over the role of creating a Facebook page for the Committee and will create an event for the nature walk.
- iii. Medway High School- Native use of land- Ella Vargas
Ms. Vargas offered to assist in advertising the walk at the high school and with the various clubs offered to students. Ms. Vargas recommended adding an Instagram page in addition to the Facebook page and offered to assist in managing the Instagram page. Ms. Vargas researched indigenous people protecting the land and how they're doing so. Ms. Vargas stated that she found that by giving native land back to indigenous people, it is in turn helping save the environment because of how they protect it. Ms. Vargas stated she will be using this for information in the box.
- iv. Historical Society- Indigenous history in Medway- Cher Hamilton
Ms. Hamilton stated the Historical Society and museum has many artifacts in its possession and will be displaying them. Ms. Hamilton offered to send pictures of the various artifacts to Ms. Venezia to arrange in the box. Ms. Hamilton stated the Society is open from 12-3 on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

F. Opportunities to support Local Indigenous events.

a. Angelica Crosby

Ms. Crosby presented the Committee with events for Indigenous Peoples' Day from various surrounding communities. The Committee plans on promoting these events. Ms. Venezia informed that there is some upcoming indigenous legislation coming up that the Committee can promote. Ms. Crosby informed that The Farm is going to get a blessing from an indigenous person in May. Ms. Crosby stated that perhaps this could be made into an event that the Committee gets behind.

G. Plaque location at The Amphitheater

Ms. Crosby asked about the potential for applying for a grant with the Cultural Council to help fund a plaque in the future. The Committee stated that a plaque is an idea for the future, possibly next year.

H. Adjourn: 8:17