

# ***East Hampton Town Anti-Bias Task Force***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

November 14, 2018

### **I. Call to order**

Chairwoman Kim Jones called to order the monthly meeting of the East Hampton Town Anti-Bias Task Force at 4:00 PM on November 14, 2018 at East Hampton Town Hall's main meeting room.

### **II. Roll call**

**The following committee members were present:** Sylvia Overby, Jack Perna, Audrey Gaines, Edna Steck, Kim Jones, Louise Bergerson, Leandra Lambert, Andrew Strong, Michael Butler, Denise Allen, Jeanne Hutson - Secretary

**The following committee members were absent:** Larry Smith, Adam Fine, Debra Winters, Michael Sarlo, Sandra Nuzzi, Sue Avedon, Mike Tracey, Karen Martin, Maria Nordone, Paul Rickenbach, Jerel Cokley, Rev. Thompson

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

The Committee approved the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting.

### **III. Open issues**

- a) Ambassador Program Update: Kim Jones reported that Karen Kuneth will be the staff advisor for the Ambassador Program at East Hampton High School and she has 27 volunteers in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades signed up. There will be three periods (2 ½ hours each) and the dates have been set for December 6<sup>th</sup>, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and February 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am – 11:00 am on each date.
- b) LTV Presentation Update: Sylvia reported that she had a conversation with someone at LTV and it was suggested that perhaps the ABTF could appear on Henry Haney's show. He has not yet committed. The delay in getting an appearance organized may be due to the fact that Morgan Vaughn has left LTV and there is a new Executive Director.
- c) Mike Tracy was not present to update the committee on his idea of speaking to Arthur Malman with Group for Good Government (GGG) about having a representative from ABTF on LTV's "GGG Insights." The presentation might be scheduled in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day.

- d) The Planning/Disabilities Liaison that was suggested at the last meeting is still an open issue. Sylvia will see if the liaison to the Disabilities Committee (Kathee Burke-Gonzalez) has any suggestions as to who might be willing to join the ABTF to represent the disabled.
- e) Andrew Strong, the committee's OLA representative, provided an update. He is working on amending a law that prevents undocumented drivers from getting licenses and being insured. Andrew has a meeting scheduled with Fred Thiele to discuss sponsoring the "Green Light New York" legislation and is asking the committee for letters of support. Ken LaValle is supportive. On Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> the legislation will be discussed with Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez and Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. The ABTF has not yet seen the legislation and would like to help craft it, in addition to writing letters of support for it. Andrew will provide the draft to Jeanne Hutson to circulate to the committee for comments and suggestions. He told the committee that it's a work in progress and that changes are welcome and helpful.
- f) The 10 rainbow hats that were order for the purpose of identifying ABTF members at various events have arrived. They will be worn for the first time by all those who march in the upcoming Santa Parade on Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Marchers will also carry the committee's new banner. The line-up will be at the train station at 2pm and the parade will begin at 3pm. The parade route will be Newtown Lane to Herrick Park. Kim Jones suggested that ABTF marchers throw candy canes to the crowds and Sylvia Overby offered that expense as a gift to the committee. Louise Bergerson will pick up the banner and rainbow hats and deliver them to the line-up location.
- g) The Chamber of Commerce provided the ABTF with a booth at the Fall Festival and Louise Bergerson reported on the event. Karen Martin took the morning shift and Louise Bergerson took the afternoon shift. They handed out a variety of anti-bias related brochures, but the ones that were of most interest were the OLA film festival brochures that Andrew Strong provided. Louise suggested that we replenish our supply. She also suggested that the committee use the rest of its 2018 funding to order a table, 2 folding chairs, a cart, and bungee cord to enable easy set-up at future events.
- h) Audrey Gaines said that she is planning to write a letter to the Town Council requesting funds to preserve the Eastville Cultural Center because it is an important historical community landmark. Sylvia mentioned that the committee had missed the deadline for requesting Community Block Grant funds that the Town of East Hampton receives annually (approximately

\$104,400 in federal funds) and uses for a variety of projects including “a need having particular urgency.” Sylvia suggested that a request by the committee be made anyway at the November 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting in hopes that there may still be funding available.

- i) The committee has 5 possible dates (2 in February and 3 in March) for the winter screening of the sports documentary “Killer Bees,” and will pin it down at the next meeting.

#### **IV. New business**

- a) Louise Bergerson reported to the committee that there is a need for literacy programs on the North Fork. Several groups were suggested by committee members, including Suffolk Community College, a church in Riverhead, and Literacy Volunteers of America.”
- b) The committee discussed a need for better supervision of affordable housing within the town and the welfare of its residents. Kim Jones will write a letter to the Town Board expressing immediate concerns, and long term solutions will continue to be explored by the committee.
- c) Kim Jones would like the voting ballots to be in Spanish, have better lighting at polling places, and educate people on how to vote.
- d) Michael Butler announced his upcoming art exhibit at the Eastville Historical Society that coincides with Black History Month.
- e) Denise Allen announced that Maureen’s Haven will be having its first winter benefit on the South Fork on Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 6-9 pm at Seasons, located at 15 Prospect Street in Southampton. Guests will enjoy light bites, a complimentary glass of wine, silent auction, dancing, and music by DJ Michael and East End Entertainment. The evening will help raise awareness of the homeless problem on the East End and raise funds that will provide vital services for those in need, especially during the harsh winter months. The cost per ticket is \$50.00 and can be purchased through this link:  
<https://winterbenefit.brownpapertickets.com/>
- f) The next ABTF meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2018 at 4pm in the Town Hall main meeting room.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Chairwoman Kim Jones adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jeanne Hutson