

**January 26, 2021**

**Meeting Open:** 5:36 p.m.

**Attendees:** Devon Chaffee, Charlie Dennis, Maria Devlin, Sharon Harris, Ann Landry, Salman Malik, Pawn Nitichan, Robert Quinn, Eli Rivera, Sean Locke, Dottie Morris (5:43 p.m.).

**Quorum:** Yes

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved unanimously with two corrections noted below.

- Corrections: Eli Rivera joined around 6:00 p.m.; Ann Landry is Associate Commissioner for Population Health

**Update on Honoring Rogers Johnson:**

- Sharon Harris spoke with Rogers's wife and Allyson Ryder.
- Family honored about the idea of doing a bench on the Black Heritage Trail.
- Black Heritage Trail is interested as is another organization.
- Family is interested in placing the bench in Swasey Park.
- Allyson will follow up with discussion.
- Next Step:
  - Find out between NAACP, Heritage Trail, and one other org what money is available and then what cost would exist for the bench.
  - Exeter Town Council coordinates the cost of the bench for the park.
  - Outreach to Town Council has happened and we are awaiting a response.
  - Request made on or about 1/18/2021
- Likely to host a formal event/groundbreaking for the bench.
- Perhaps aiming to do something for June 2021.
- Perhaps around the Juneteenth events/Father's Day.
- Dottie will look into Black Heritage Trail events for Juneteenth to see if we can work this all in together.

**Planning for 2021:**

- Eli Rivera:
  - Sheriff's Office Chief of Rindge and Chief of Troop C met with Franklin Pierce College sports teams
  - Questions from community from BIPOC students at Franklin Pierce College and the interactions between a less-diverse town community and a more-diverse student population and what fears or concerns or issues may face BIPOC students, guests, visitors, and residents in New Hampshire.

- Thoughts on doing outreach to universities in New Hampshire to hear from diverse student populations that may be new to New Hampshire.
- Two-way discussion: Listening to the concerns of the student populations but also sharing information about the work that is done within the State to make New Hampshire and safe, welcoming, and inclusive place.
- Robert Quinn/Charlie Dennis/Pawn Nitichan/Salman Malik/Sean Locke:
  - As a result of LEACT: Chiefs Assoc. and Safety have discussed doing outreach and work in the communities.
  - Take LEACT work and do it in concert with GACDI
  - Going around by counties and working with Chiefs, Sheriffs, Safety. Community discussion, information gathering and dissemination of information.
  - Concept of calling them Town Hall meetings.
  - Focus groups and themes.
  - Sean looking at doing community outreach and building around explaining what the Civil Rights Unit does, how it operates, the types of cases it brings, etc. This would go very well with that and allow the Council to do broader outreach
  - Reach out to different entities to learn what issues those entities view as important. Elected officials, community advocates, community organizations, etc. Think about some other groups.
    - Are these separate town halls or concepts that warrant separate outreach?
    - Subcommittee to work out the logistics?
    - One town hall per county or one per county for Sheriff Rivera's point and then other town halls.
- Devon identifies that we may have some other ideas percolating: (1) conversations and town halls with law enforcement and (2) other areas of inquiry. Also may be worthwhile to do some outreach to prior community partners to update them and do some additional listening.
- Looking at the Executive Branch and its programs and projects and trying to take a look more deeply and what initiatives exist related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and how they all tie together.
- Idea of perhaps some Department of Safety, Health and Human Services, and Civil Rights to do the information sharing (about work of the departments/units) and listening (for input and concerns). Do a demo of 3-4 of those and see how that works.
- Not wanting to lose sight of Sheriff Rivera's points about concerns related to white nationalist groups and COVID.
- We want a clear plan for how we message these opportunities.
  - Idea of acting regionally to keep ideas together
- Sheriff was not looking for a law enforcement specific listening session but more an opportunity for students to meet with us and hear from us. Does not have to be specific to law enforcement. Do not want to step on toes of LEACT.

- LEACT's work is done in the sense that it no longer meets. Now others have to get together and push things along. So part of that could be the projects the Sheriff proposes, but also expanding that across the state.
  - Safety has an obligation to work on community-building.
- This Council can support the work that carries over from LEACT.
- Could we form a group to investigate and put together a plan.
  - **Charlie Dennis, Sheriff Rivera, Robert Quinn, and will invite Ahni Malachi to put together a plan for outreach and town halls.**
- Pawn Nitichan and Salman Malik's idea for a town hall. Looking to report back to communities we have worked with in the past.
  - Idea of having some report back but also reps from Law Enforcement and health care to address some primary concerns.
  - May be worthwhile to have larger representation from the Council.
  - Looking at efforts to report information back out.
- Education-related ideas and how to do some education-related outreach. Want to bounce ideas of Jim Morse.
  - Guidance from someone in the system on how to support underserved students who are being impacted by the learning dynamics created by COVID-19. Even stronger students who are starting to struggle with school in the remote learning environment.
  - Seniors looking ahead to college not able to get prepared for college because the communication is lacking and falling apart. Some students are taking classes through community college system to help re-engage students. Guidance Counselors are struggling.
  - Educational equity is becoming a large problem and student success has been harmed by COVID and remote-learning. Disproportionate impact in Manchester area among minority and new American students.
  - Having conversations with the Governor on how to bridge that gap and rectify the issue.
  - Magnitude of the issue: Senior who did not complete their work were allowed to graduate and were given an extension of six or more months because so many were at risk of failing classes and not being allowed to graduate.
  - **Idea of looking at education disparities with Sharon Harris and Pawn Nitichan, tie in James Morse as well. Ann Landry willing to help and participate.**
  - COVID has exacerbated the problem of students who were struggling even in normal times.
- Housing crisis looming with the end of eviction and foreclosure moratorium. We may want to keep our eye on the disproportionate impact. We may want to intersect or hear from the housing stability group. How can we lend support to that effort?
  - **Maria Devlin do some outreach to the housing stability council and how do we capture disproportionate impact.**
  - **Devon Chaffee to connect with NH Legal Assistance around the issue too.**

- COVID and Health and Human Services—leveraging the Council to hear from concerns related to COVID.
  - Part of the problem is there is not a single dataset that we can draw upon.
  - Issues of wellness, behavioral health, homelessness, etc. there's a lack of data and a desire to gather more. We just do not have the data. Or we are not getting consistent data.
  - How to gather the information is the big question?
  - Idea is folks for to think about this question for the next meeting.
- Timelining things out:
  - Executive Council can think about how to present a proposal of a report out town hall.
  - As you meet, plan out a time line for everything and who you may need.
  - Question of advertising events if and when they occur.
  - Sean Locke raises issue of money, keep in mind things like language access will come with a cost.
- Sean Locke volunteers to join Ahni, Robert, Eli, Charlie on law enforcement related subcommittee.

**New Business:**

- None

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:** 7:03 p.m.