

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of September 17, 2018**

Commissioners Present—Hattie Kerwin Derrick (Chair), Brooke Welles, Jane Brown, Tamika Olszewski, David Kuppenheimer, Bryan Barash, Eli Ingraham,

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker

Student Representatives Present— none

Guests – Dana Hanson, Jessica Aker, Emily Prenner, Holly Ryan, Yasmeen Kazimi, Michael Ryter

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh and Shin-Yi Lao

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1. Hate Incidents reported by Lt. Apotheker
  - July: Antisemitic slurs in an apartment complex
  - Lt. Apotheker also reported on National Night Out which happened in August and the start of the second year of an internship program with Lasell College, Fitchburg State University, and Pine Manor College which aims to foster diversity in police departments
2. Transgender Anti-Discrimination
  - E. Prenner and H. Ryan presented on the “Yes on 3” campaign to uphold the state law that protects transgender individuals from discrimination in public spaces.
  - Add to next meeting’s agenda: vote on endorsing the “Yes on 3” campaign
3. LGBTQA Resource Guide
  - B. Barash presented the City of Worcester’s pamphlet of LGBTQ resources.
  - B. Barash and H. Ryan will create a pamphlet of LGBTQ+ resources in Newton. Anyone who has resources they would like included should send them to B. Barash.
4. Complaint Process
  - L. Walsh presented on the progress of the working group that is in the process of streamlining the complaint process. The group will be meeting with the IT Director to discuss making the complaint submission process electronic, which will make the process more consistent and facilitate the ability to collect data. Staff to the commission will report at meetings on complaints received and referrals made.
  - Discussed the need for Newton-specific data on discrimination complaints.
  - Discussed the possibility of MCAD conducting a training on intake and mediation for discrimination complaints.
5. Student Representation on HRC
  - M. Ryter presented on the progress in finding new student representatives (1-2 representatives in different grades from each high school).
6. Newtonville Books
  - B. Welles presented on the progress in partnering with Newtonville Books to sponsor a program based on a social justice book.
7. Co-Sponsored Event with Harmony Foundation & Newton Theater Co.
  - Discussed whether to provide funding for the program. H. Kerwin Derrick will bring more information about the program to the next meeting.
8. Human Rights Awards Night
  - H. Kerwin Derrick presented drafts of forms for community members to nominate adult and youth awardees. Any feedback should be sent to H. Kerwin Derrick.
  - Discussed honoring late Commissioner Sheila Mondshein at the ceremony.