

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
February 20, 2025
7:00 pm at Launchit Minto

Attendance: Mayor Dave Turton, Co-Chair Jokelee Vanderkop, Ahmad Almohammad, Peggy Raftis, Mabel Amapali, Caitlin Hall, Kerry Ammerman and Stefan Von Muhlenen

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director, Economic & Community Development, Gordon Duff, Treasurer and Tami Cressey, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson, Co-Chair Brittany Reis, Alicia Becker, Jessica Rowden and Peyton McBeth.

- 1. Call to Order at 7:12 pm by Co-Chair Jokelee Vanderkop**
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - 2.1 Minutes of January 16, 2025, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting**

MOTION

Moved by: Caitlin Hall Seconded by: Mabel Amapali

THAT the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting.

CARRIED.

- 3. Roundtable Discussion**
 - 3.1 DEI Committee Logo**

Wick-Graham asked the Committee if they would like a logo. Erin Raftis, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator suggested that it would be good to have for promoting DEI initiatives. The Committee agreed that a logo would be helpful and Amapali offered to reach out to a contact to provide a price for the design of the Committee logo.

3.2 Black Heritage Month Event Recap

Duff reported that the Black Heritage Month was sold out with 72 tickets sold. Unfortunately, the weather was not the greatest resulting in 50 people attending. The event drew people from Minto and communities outside of Minto including Listowel, Orangeville, Elmira and Guelph. Wick-Graham noted that several people approached her providing positive comments on the event and the work the DEI Committee is doing in Minto. One of the attendees would like to follow up to see how they coordinate a similar Committee in their

community. Special thanks to Mabel (May's Café at the Old Post) for providing a delicious light lunch at the event. Tracey Lee was an excellent presenter and performer and all the Committee members that attended were moved by her presentation.

3.3 Coldest Night of the Year Update

Wick-Graham reported that the Minto Coldest Night of the Year has surpassed the goal of raising \$20,000 and was now at \$34,192. The Minto DEI Snowy Striders are in 2nd place securing \$2,718.39 in funds. Wick-Graham gave special mention to the Palmerston Lions Club for sponsoring the DEI team \$500 as well as the Clifford Rotary Club for sponsoring the DEI team \$200. Those who were walking were asked to meet at 4:15 pm at the Harriston-Minto Community Centre on Saturday February 21, 2025.

3.4 Clifford Food Pantry Update

Wick-Graham noted that the winter weather continues to be a challenge for the pantry. She also provided an update from the County of Wellington on what is happening across the County regarding food security. The Committee directed Wick-Graham to reach out to the County to see if for the winter we could put a sign up that the pantry is closed but they could access food at the library and through the food bank. Hall offered to volunteer to assist with this at the library if needed. The Committee also questioned if the Centre Wellington Food Bank that was assisting getting food to the north could also direct some to the pantry.

3.5 Action Plan Follow Ups and Working Groups

Tami Cressey presented the Committee with information on DEI calendars. Cressey noted that the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) has put together a calendar with 450 events/days of significance. This is obviously too many to highlight on social media. Cressey asked the Committee for direction. The Committee suggested that Cressey look at the Minto Census data to identify the cultures that exist in Minto and to try to narrow the list down based on that. The CCDI calendar could be included on our website and perhaps a monthly post could highlight the days of significance within that month. Cressey will come back to the next meeting to discuss.

Wick-Graham noted that Kerry Ammerman, Brittany Reis and herself met with Julie Sawchuck to discuss an accessibility walk in downtown Palmerston and a presentation. The County of Wellington offers the lower tier municipalities a grant for up to \$10,000 to improve accessibility in their communities. As a result of this initial discussion, Deputy Clerk Gorecki who sits on the County Accessibility Advisory Committee has applied for the funding that would allow us to audit all three downtowns, as well as the arenas/community halls in Clifford, Harriston and Palmerston, provide a presentation as well as access a lot of additional resources. It is expected that we should hear back next month if successful. If we are we would look to complete the presentation and audits over two days in June.

The Committee reviewed the Action Plan. Wick-Graham will email each activity group for the group to then identify a leader to begin planning out the activities for the rest of the year.

Von Muhlenen noted he has concerns around funding for homelessness by upper tier levels of government. The Committee discussed what we can do at a local level to assist and that participating in raising awareness of the issue and resources that are available is a great way we can support. The Committee felt that our participation in the Coldest Night of the Year is a good first step.

3.6 Committee Member Updates

Hall highlighted that Minto Pride has seen a good uptake on the Drag Bingo event taking place March 29, 2024. Capacity is 120 people. Minto Pride has also entered a team in the Coldest Night of the Year and are busy planning a lot of great activities for Pride in the Park.

Peggy Raftis suggested that members go see “It’s Just One Day” to show that a small group of people taking small actions can have a big impact.

4. Reports

4.1 Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

Wick-Graham provided a report regarding membership in the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by: Peggy Raftis and Seconded by Kerry Ammerman

THAT the DEI Committee receives the February 20, 2025, report regarding membership in the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities from the Director of Economic and Community Development

AND FURTHER THAT

The DEI Committee recommends that the Town of Minto join the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

AND FURTHER THAT

the Mayor be authorized to sign the declaration to join the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

5. Adjournment at 8:21 pm

Next Meeting March 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Launchit Business Exploration Centre