

**Town of Windsor
Human Relations Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2020
Time: 6:30PM
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Present: Chairperson Judge Kevin Washington, Assistant Chairperson Patricia Mack Jones, Secretary Desiree Primus and Commissioners: Kereme Murelle, Leonard Swade, Max Kuziak, Joyce Armstrong, McAdams, Jim Burke, Liaison Jim Burke, Guest Presenter Eric LaForest

- June 20 Minutes accepted, edit minutes that Max left at 6:54, returned later.
- Liaison report: Purchase of books for One Book One Windsor event. 15 copies of *Know Your Price* by Andre Perry and *How to Be an Anti -Racist* and Ibram X. Kendi Books will be kept at the Community Development Office at Town Hall, pick up available on the following Thursday afternoon, total cost of books is \$581.03.
- Statement that Windsor Town Council on June 15, 2020 Declares “Racism aPublic Health Crisis” Resolution first in state.
- Eric LaForest, history teacher at Loomis-Chaffee School provided background on colonial settler John Mason. Many accomplishments throughout life, however in 1637 Mason’s Mystic Massacre occurred where hundreds of Native American Pequot men, women and children were burned alive, leading to the dissolution of Pequots in CT. The Treaty of Harttord terminated the name and Pequots were sold into slavery to other Native American groups.
- Mason’s statue was removed from Mystic, CT after an early 90s petition; the statue then placed on the Windsor Town Green.
- In 1914 Loomis Chaffee dormitory was named after him; Mason's family had no financial connection to school.
- Petition created in 2016 for removal of Mason name to the Loomis-Chaffee Board of Trustees.

- 2017 Mason's name removed from the dorm. This action led to controversy and also praise.
- Eric LaForest left the meeting at 7:08, Patricia Jones Mack joined the meeting at approximately 7:10 pm.
- Commissioner Desiree Primus discussed how in Wilson there were Multi-family homes in need of repair, one home has a porch that is unsafe, trash on the street that needs to be picked up, bricks in the median not maintained. Windsor Garden Club and Wilson Deerfield Advisory Committee and other groups can assist with a beautification project. Wilson Deerfield Advisory Committee has had difficulty with having a quorum for meetings.
- Motion carried for the Human Relations Commission to assist in the beautification of Wilson.
- Town has plans on redevelopment of Roger Wolcott School.
- Maintenance of the Windsor Ave./Route 159 median discussed, the town had taken maintenance of Route 159 from the state.
- Capital improvement plan to rebuild median costs two million dollars. State money to help is competitive with other projects in the state.
- Commissioner Swade mentioned encouraging people to frequent Wilson restaurants.
- Pat asked for flower planters in Wilson, support of beautification, will bring up to Windsor DTC, and also bring up to Council.
- Racial Justice Programming proposed by the HRC for next year, request for commissioners to brainstorm sessions.
- Commissione Swade discussed zoning ordinance, multi family houses, and helping the homeless.
- It was noted that the Housing Committee helps people with special needs, low income and Housing; Community Development Office Loan program for homeowners, low to moderate income.
- No HRC meeting in August.

- September 9th next HRC meeting, followed by October 14 and November 12.
- July 20 Zoom meeting with author Ibram X. Kendi of *How to be an Anti-Racist*, a One Book, One Windsor selection. Press releases will be printed in the *Windsor Journal* and notification to Windsor Democratic Town Committee and Windsor Chamber of Commerce.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm