

DEIB committee meeting 8/26/25 at 6:30pm

A. Call to Order

- a. Present: Joshua Earley, Ashley Hansen-Brown, Sherley Phillips

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025

- a. Three in favor; no abstentions; none opposed. Minutes approved.

C. Public Comment

- a. None.

D. New Business

a) Public Outreach, Engagement and Committee Goals

- Discussion about recent denial of applicant to join DEIB committee due to 3 council members believing that the committee should not exist.
- Discussion about how to make the relevancy of our committee clearer to the public. Bridgewater is a diverse town with businesses owned by diverse folks, and we don't want people to leave town if they feel unsupported. Need to do more public outreach. Might be reasonable to rename the DEIB committee because the term "DEIB" has been damaged in public opinion – should we call ourselves the Inclusivity & Belonging committee instead? Or just Belonging Committee? Put request to change committee name in writing to town manager.
- Ideas for public engagement: Begin attending town meetings? Work with DEI committees/organizations at BSU?
- Josh has been building slideshows about inclusion & belonging – will send to Josh M to send to us for review before our next meeting. Josh will also send a "day of belonging" event proposal. Sherley suggested partnering with the senior citizen group as they have previously hosted a similar event.
- Discussion about how to address Stephanie, who has not attended any of our meetings. Decided to reach out again to attempt to make contact.

b) BCCR Partnership Event

- Sherley says BCCR is interested in working with us. Josh will plan to attend their next meeting.

E. Old Business

- a. None.

F. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Action items before our next meeting: Josh will create and send out slideshows to rest of committee for review, and will write letter to town

committee about changing committee name. Ashley will reach out to BSU MRISJ about partnering on events. Sherley will coordinate with BCCR about partnering on events.

G. Adjournment of Meeting

- a. Adjourned at 7:09pm.