

BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING OF

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA

DATE: May 9, 2024  
TIME: 2:43 PM

Reserved for Town Clerk Use Only

**Committee Name:** Belmont Human Rights Commission

**Subcommittee Name if Applicable:** Click here to enter text.

**Date:** February 1, 2024

**Time:** 7pm

In keeping with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020; "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" - All Participation for Town Residents will be by Remote Access. If the audio becomes unavailable, the meeting will be paused until it can be restored, or the meeting will end.

Topic: Belmont Human Rights Commission

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Time: Feb 1, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85793888738?pwd=a1ZKb25sQkp0RTh6YXcxREtuT2V1QT09>

Meeting ID: 857 9388 8738

Passcode: 139801

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One tap mobile

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## AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Welcome to new members
  - a. We welcome our new members, Finn Wiegand and Ken Gray.
3. Emails (Jess Hicks)
  - a. This month's emails, a few from a resident critiquing our work, invitations for other human rights events.
4. Liaison reports
  - a. Chief DeStefano: BFD offering a class at Beech St along with MEMA/FEMA called "before help arrives." Common sense actions to assist in times of emergency before EMS, Fire and Police show up. Not just for seniors, helpful education for all ages. Kim asks if they have a flier, the chief will send one shortly. They will post online and tag the BHRC.
  - b. Chief MacLissac: There was an incident on 23rd. A postal worker flagged the police, a female swore at him outside a Dunkin Donuts, a political discussion and turned to recent immigration issues and other female got upset and screaming at postal worker and ended with "go back to your country." Postal worker did not want charges but wanted it documented. Several pro-Israel signs removed from yards.
5. MLK Breakfast
  - a. Any other feedback about the event? BAR did well with fundraising. Jess asks if anything done around feedback around after hours busses for METCO kids. Kim will be following up with Chontel Washington and Dr. Geiser.
  - b. Discussion about putting it in the agenda for next month about giving BAR responsibility for funding event.
6. Henry Tapia vigil and sentencing of Dean Kapsalis
7. Community feedback/response
  - a. There is feedback by a community member regarding not coming out w statement about Gaza on time.
    - i. A different person arguing that we leaning more toward Palestine v. Israel in a statement. The town asked if they could provide a disclaimer to disassociate the town from our statement.
  - b. Calls for the town to call for a ceasefire. Kim is waiting to hear about what the town says.
  - c. Legal stuff about online: Kim met with legal: legal agreed, absolutely person has no right to your personal info. No right to you personally or any other person's social media. This person continuously bombards our email account, question about policing fb and community chat.
  - d. Jess: it seems if you are active on social media make sure you label your personal account personal.
8. Events
  - a. Birchers event with author Matthew Dallek (delayed)
    - i. A book called Birchers came out, we have Matt Dallek for a zoom presentation on the book, book discussion, it's a non-fiction book and kind of dry- end of march, women's history month,
    - ii. End of month and weeknight, Wednesday: March 27th.
    - iii. Maybe outreach to the historical society, women's group up on pleasant st that is where the place was, not sure
  - b. Black History Month- co-sponsored event with Black and Brown in Belmont.
    - i. We have a statement ask town to repost that. Events? Great idea to redo the black history jeopardy which was a lot of fun, put it to a vote that we have it, in person or hybrid, at beech st pizza or something for families to come and hang out or playing at home.
    - ii. Vote on black hx month: publicity, talked to Jennifer talked about March 1st, Friday night, maybe we do a virtual on 28th and maybe in person on the first on a Friday...

c. Panel on Israel/Gaza conflict

- i. Approach shamaila khan about facilitating a conversation/discussion in Belmont about conflict Israel/Palestine.

d. Women's History Month

- i. Women's history month: domestic violence let's talk to Police Department and District Attorney's Department panel w/ in March middle of March, time to publicize. Check w/ Brandon at beech street availability for March,
- ii. Attorneys for kids rights
- iii. Audience, how do you know you are not safe, when do i start to call it abuse, don't feel like you are being outed, mental health support there as well, looping in the social worker at the police station.

e. One Love One Belmont

- i. Scheduled for late April, renamed Belmont Connects. Co-sponsoring with the Belmont Democratic Town Committee.

f. Juneteenth

- i. Co-sponsoring with Watertown