

TRHT Committee  
Feb 22, 2021  
7 PM  
Zoom Call

**Members Present:**

Alexis Jenkins – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Chair  
 Kyle Brogden – Berkeley Heights Town Resident  
 Dennis Kim – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Secretary  
 Joy Young – Berkeley Heights Board of Ed  
 Stephen Hopkins – Berkeley Heights Public School District

**Apologies:**

Angie Devanney - Berkeley Heights Mayor  
 Jason Massimino – Berkeley Heights Police Chief  
 Tiffany Escott - Berkeley Heights YMCA  
 Vani Chitturi – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Committee Vice Chair  
 Jeff Varinin – Berkeley Heights Township Council  
 Ritika Sinha-Chaudhuri – Berkeley Heights Town Resident & Mayor Youth Council Rep  
 Stephen Yellin - Berkeley Heights Township Council  
 Father Andy Prachar – Little Flower  
 Tracy Procaccini – Berkeley Heights Town Resident  
 Brandon Ramos – Berkeley Heights Town Resident

I. Open and welcome - Alexis

II. Old Business

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who (Leads + Others)</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Status/Links/Attachments</b>
Receive update from Danni Newberry on LGTBQ+ training program	Stephen Yellin	TBC by Stephen & Danni	Postponed for future date
Send out goals and mission statement to be uploaded TRHT Sharepoint vs attached in emails	Dennis Kim & Angie Devanney	ASAP	Shared via email
Draft formal ordinance for TRHT Committee	Stephen Yellin	TBD	Need Committee to review
Review Activities to improve BH status on Sustainable Jersey Certification ( <a href="http://www.sustainablejersey.com">www.sustainablejersey.com</a> )	Dennis Kim & Angie Devanney	TBD	Frees up funding for BH – goals for committee – aspiration for goal status. Would

			like to conduct review and identify activities to pursue in 2021
Diversity & Inclusion Tab on website development – need to further develop communication plan to current & potential town residents	Angie Devanney	TBD	
Invite South Orange Community Coalition on Race to attend future meeting as guest speaker	Angie Devanney	TBD	Scheduled for next meeting - TBC
Sharing of 2021 D&I goals from each Stakeholders	Stakeholders	TBC	Have committee review goals.
Close loop on review & approval from school district on mentoring program	Ritika w/ Joy, Vani & Stephen H	ASAP	

### III. New Business

- a. Comments on the draft ordinance for TRHT Committee
- b. Annie Young Academy (Chief Massimino) – Postponed to next meeting
- c. Cultural Street Fair Planning (Kyle Brogden)
  - i. Kyle Met 2 weeks ago w/ Angie – requested that to assemble smaller group – meet in June and review/develop cost & budgets – Aug/Sept timeline – assuming reduced restrictions – do we need additional fundraising? Plan A vs Plan B – call for volunteers – scope African American Ethnic Festival Culture Food/Arts – 3-4 people to work. Joy Young volunteered w/ Kyle – need to identify 1-2 more volunteers.
- d. Flag raisings—I asked my CFO to budget for four flags to start: Black History Month, Pride Month, Women’s History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month
  - i. At Peppertown Park = put in town digital signs as stand in
  - ii. Feedback from group is proceed and start w/ first 4 and tie with activities that maybe sponsored within town.
- e. March is Women’s History Month. How can we help celebrate?
  - i. The theme for 2021 National Women's History Month captures the spirit of these **challenging times**. Since most 2020 **women's suffrage** centennial celebrations were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to “Valiant Women of the **Vote**: Refusing to Be Silenced.”
  - ii. Mayor Youth Council – to honor 5 Women in town – how to select/criteria – Ritika – provide support and thoughts and how to help celebrate – what are the plans?

- f. Maybe someone can report on the Lunar New Year event (It was spectacular!)  
How can we promote Asian culture and education next year for Lunar NY –  
comments from committee on this
- g. Ask the Chief if you can meet new police officers next month
- h. D&I goals for 2021 from Stakeholders
- Reports from Stakeholders
  - BOE – Joy/Stephen shared updated from BOE 4<sup>th</sup> of Feb meeting and the district DEI initiative: Discuss the hiring of Marc Strachan – help create Strategic Plan w/ BH District Diversity Taskforce – create plan for District w/ metrics to measure progress. First meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> – w/ plans to be planned for next school year – in place for October Budget building. Within Buildings – celebrating Diversity sponsors BHEF – Trevor Noah book; Roundtable on Amanda Gorman review of ‘The Hill We Climb’ poem; April Holocaust Awareness – teacher share family history; Have had to drop due to Covid events. CMS – literary circuit – The hate you give book. Kane University Diversity Council program – all roundtables/events – virtual via Zoom. Small targeted discussions that will move the needle with students – Asian club is looking to have a film night.
  - YMCA
  - Township
  - Faith Community
  - LGBTQ+
  - Student/Youth
  - Other

Next Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 22 at 7pm via Zoom.