

Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2015
6:30pm, Bangs Community Center

Agenda

Opening/Welcome:
Agenda Review/Additions

Old Business:

Review and Approve Minutes of December 18, 2014, February 19, 2015. No meeting in March.

New Business:

1. HRC Position on Town Meeting Petition Articles (following):
 - a. Towards a Human Rights Culture (Article 28)
 - b. Race Amity Day June 2 (Article 29)
2. Chair's Report
 - a. Human Rights Annual Picnic & Human Rights Heroes Awards- Sunday, June 14
 - b. Unity Walk
3. Director's Report
4. Member Reports

Other Business: Any other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting

ARTICLE 28. Petition – Resolution Towards a Human Rights Culture
(Wronka et al) _____

WHEREAS, Article VI, Clause 2 of the US Constitution asserts: “All treaties made or shall be made...shall become the Supreme Law of the Land and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby...”;

And, WHEREAS, the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the authoritative statement of customary international law, and major UN human rights conventions have the status of international treaty,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Amherst calls upon all federal state, and municipal legislative, executive, and judicial bodies to sign, ratify, and implement such conventions as they presently exist and evolve. This warrant article will be deposited with Representative Elizabeth Warren; President Obama; Samantha Powers, US Representative to the UN; Senator Bob Corker, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Charlie Baker, Governor of Massachusetts and other policy makers as appropriate in order that they take positive steps in that direction. Doing so, would be a step towards creating a human rights culture among the general populace, a “lived awareness” of human rights principles in our minds and hearts and carried into our everyday lives, ultimately resulting in socially just policies, where every person, everywhere can live with dignity and have their human rights realized.

ARTICLE 29. Petition – Race Amity Day Proclamation
(Elliott et al) _____

WHEREAS the greatest asset of the Town of Amherst is its people; and

WHEREAS the Town of Amherst holds dear the motto of the United States of America, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one), recognizing the principle of the oneness of the humankind, and the rich cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS civility, respect, kindness and friendship are commonly shared values of the collective citizenry of the Town of Amherst; and

WHEREAS the Town of Amherst promotes communities and neighborhoods to join in reflection on the beauty and richness of our diverse cultures and ethnicities while reaching out with a spirit of amity toward one another,

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Amherst hereby proclaims the second Sunday of June to be **Race Amity Day**, And urges all the people of Amherst to recognize this event and to celebrate its annual observance.