

**No Place for Hate Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 2, 2015**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**120 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Chair Jeff Cohen, Clerk Jean Rockett, Treasurer Lucy Corchado, Salem Police Liaison Conrad Prosniewski, Mayor's Office Liaison Laura Assade, Shawn Newton, Rebecca Comage.

**Guests Present:** Hope Watt-Bucci, North Shore Pride; Dan Sousa, North Shore Pride, Alison Miller, Salem Peace Committee; Fara Wolfson.

**Officer Reports:**

**Clerk** - May minutes approved unanimously.

**Treasurer** - balance is unchanged from last month's report: \$1412.73

The Chair called the meeting to order and began introductions of members and guests.

**Public Comments:**

The Chair allowed a request by Alison Miller from the Salem Peace Committee to speak out of order. She offered information about the Committee's monthly film screening which is presented at the SATV facility at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month. The films typically spotlight themes of peace or global warming. Attendance is free and the public is welcome.

Laura Assade, Liaison to the Mayor's Office for the No Place for Hate Committee was reintroduced by the Chair. Laura shared that she serves as the Mayor's LGBT Community Liaison as well as Constituent Services Director and Latino Affairs Coordinator. She was formerly employed by the Chelsea Public Schools as the Program Manager for the College Savings Program entitled FUEL Education. She grew up in Salem and is happy to be back again.

The Chair discussed raffle prizes being pursued for the upcoming PRIDE Day and Laura stated that she is currently working on acquiring 8 cases of water.

Hope and Dan were reintroduced by the Chair.

Hope Watt-Bucci spoke about her connection to Salem. She pursued her graduate degree in Social Work at Salem State University and subsequently became an adjunct professor there. Her thesis focused on LGBT suicide as well as personal experiences and their knowledge of individual incidents. When she began to consider holding an event, Salem was approached because it was recognized as a welcoming community that also had transportation available. Hope noted at the event at least 50% are educational or service vendors. Entertainment is available and the day starts with the parade as this is a celebration.

Dan shared that he was born and raised in Salem, His experience was unique in that when he came out, his family and parents were accepting which he realizes is different from the experience of many others.

North Shore Pride offers a week of events starting with a free luncheon at the Cabot on Monday. On Wednesday there will be a film screening of 'The Case Against 8' at the Salem Theater and on Thursday there will be a powerful presentation of the play, 'The Normal Heart', also at The Salem Theater. We'll celebrate with an Interfaith Service on Friday and on Saturday we'll have our Parade, Festival and After-Party.

Everyone is urged to RSVP for events.

The annual Flag raising will be held Saturday at Reilley Plaza. The flags will be taken down for the birthday of the US Army (June 14) and be back up after. Gary is working with the Mayor's office to coordinate. More to come.

It's reported the NPFH tent is lost.

Leo Jodoin approached the Chair about initiating a program against bullying. Suggestions for resources were Dr. Yvonne Vissing, Director, Center for Child Studies at Salem State University or Peter Baglioni, Salem Police Department's School Resource Officer. In addition, it was suggested that inquiries be made to learn if the Salem School System already has a curriculum in place to address bullying. Further, it was noted that the ADL program to combat bullying in schools is known as No Place for Hate. Also, "Teaching Tolerance" offers educational curriculum for all ages on bullying, diversity and many other topics.

### **Diversion Program**

Working on fine-tuning the program. It's almost there. Judge Brennan is on board. DA's office is trying to tighten some things up. Probation Department can then present it for use in response to those charged with bullying or civil rights violations. Hoping that people who ultimately participate in the Hate Crime/Diversity Awareness Program are impacted and come to understand how their behavior has impacted others.

### **Upcoming Events**

Strategic Planning Meeting in lieu of regular August meeting, tentatively August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**July Speakers:** LLC (Latino Leadership Coalition)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

**Adjournment:** 6:42 P.M.