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By Town Clerk's Office at 9:03 am, Oct 21, 2022

## TOWN OF BURLINGTON

### Meeting Minutes

Email minutes to [meetings@burlington.org](mailto:meetings@burlington.org) or Bring to the Clerk's Office. Thank you

Minutes need to be posted within 30 days or 2 meetings of the board – Draft minutes can be posted and revised at a later date

DEPT./BOARD: Joint Select Board/DEIC Meeting

DATE: 4/11/2022

TIME: 6pm - DEIC portion begins ~6:10pm

PLACE: Burlington Town Hall, 29 Center Street Main Meeting Room, 2nd Floor and Cisco Webex On-Line Meeting

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Espejo, Jim Tigges, Joe Morandi, Nick Priest, Michael Runyan from Select Board

Barbara Addison Reid, Carl Foss, Nancy Bonassera, Syed Ghani from DEIC

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- Overview/Intro from Nick as SB chair and liaison to DEIC
- Task tonight is to update the Mission Statement - one specific bullet point
- Syed gives an overview of why the Mission Statement needs to be updated
  - We wanted to bring it up to date to better reflect the current times
  - Add Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the statement - specifically bullet #5 which reads as follows: *To create a sense of community within the Town (to develop the "soul" of the community), while recognizing the "mixed" diverse nature of the community.*
  - Proposal to move this bullet to #1 in the mission statement and amend to read as follows: *Create a sense of community within the Town of Burlington to embrace and engage in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion so that the "soul" of the community is to accept who we are and support our efforts to succeed in how we live in the diverse nature of the Town.*
- Discussion about proposed change
  - JT - I support the language. 1 question about formatting
  - MR - Is this pandering? A mission statement is an important document that deserves a top to bottom review, not one bullet point at a time. We should take a holistic approach over time to revise the entire mission statement
  - ME - No problem with the wording for this bullet point and looking at the whole document as well.





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- NP - I don't disagree with Mike about looking at the whole statement. DEIC focus is on DEI issues, not the entire document, which is why we focused on that bullet point. The SB should look at the whole statement moving forward.
- JT - perhaps we should ask other town committees/boards for input on other bullet points as well
- Mission statement amendment approved 3-2-0
- Discussion of Special Meeting between SB/DEIC
  - NP - 2 questions to guide us: What are we hoping to accomplish? What type of meeting will it be?
  - JM - Consider following Robert's Rules so it doesn't get out of hand
  - ME - We need to stop talking past each other and start talking to each other. It should be a less formal meeting. Perhaps set up guidelines ahead of time to guide us but not as formal as a normal meeting. Need someone to lead the discussion.
  - JT - call it a "hybrid" meeting - an open meeting with rules
  - NP - I will work with DEI committee to set expectations, guidelines and figure out a time/date
- DEIC portion of SB meeting concluded ~6:25

