

Abington Human Relations Commission: Sept. 2, 2020

Attending: Kristin, Rosemary, Shelley, Joanne, John

Complaint: We received a notice from the Township that there's a dispute between neighbors and that it might be a complaint. Kristin left a message for the gentleman who is complaining and is waiting for a response. Shelley will check with HRC member Dave Rondinelli, who usually handles such matters for the Community Policing Dept., to get his opinion on this.

At a future meeting, we need to have a discussion about the process for fielding complaints and allocating the work for this. The suggestion was made that we have a set rotation, created in advance, and only if someone has a problem at the time preventing them from taking their turn would we make a change and it would be up to that person to find a substitute (not to Joanne). We also have posted on the Township website the procedure for a complaint, which needs to be reviewed.

Review of and Future Planning for Community Meeting: We received excellent feedback the evening of the community meeting, but haven't heard anything more since. However, we promised to hold additional meetings and other activities and intend to fulfill our promise.

One request during the community meeting was to sponsor a meeting with the police department. Rosemary will contact Chief Molloy about this and, if he is willing, we'll work with the department to plan an agenda. If possible, we'll hold this in October. This time, in addition to posting it on our Facebook and Township pages, we'll specifically contact churches, the synagogue, Abington for Peace, and other organizations.

A second idea is a program, also with the police department, to show and discuss the video "Walking While Black." The film is an hour long and then we could hold an hour discussion. Again, if the Department agrees, we will plan this program with them. Kristin shared an example of a similar program in Bucks County that was very successful. Rosemary will also discuss this with Chief Molloy.

A third request was for us to put a list of books about racism on our website or Facebook page. Shelley provided Kristin with such a list and we'll get it posted.

Next Meeting: Wed., Oct. 7, 2020 @ 7:00 pm by zoom