



City of Biddeford
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
June 9, 2025 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting Online](#)

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 949 5874 6288

Passcode: 973235

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3 Minute Limit Per Speaker
3. Approval of Minutes
3.a May 12 2025 DEI Committee Meeting Minutes
4. Discussion Items
4.a Presentation by Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition
4.b Juneteenth Proclamation - Approval
4.c Juneteenth - Planning & Call for Volunteers
4.d June 17th Committee Presentation to the Council (prep & planning)
5. 2nd Public Comment
6. Adjourn

DEI Committee Meeting Minutes – May 12th, 2025 Meeting

Status

1. Called to order by the Chair at 5:35 PM.

Present: Shelly Gibson, Danica Lamontagne, Flo Leighton, Breese Reagle, Anne Morrissey

Via Zoom: Maura Oakes, Syed Zafar

Absent: Bistra Nikiforova, Scott Whiting, Ariane Meno Kobo

2. Public Comment (3-minute limit per speaker)

No one from the public was present to comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.a April 14 2025 DEI Committee Meeting Minutes

Initially, there was no quorum so a vote could not be made at this point in the meeting. After the first discussion item in Section 4.a., another committee member joined the meeting so there was a quorum and the group could vote.

Anne made a motion to approve the minutes; Breese seconded the motion; the motion passes unanimously.

4. Discussion Items

- 4.a Beach Wheelchair Program

Alisha Keezer and Lisa Thompson from the Recreation Department came to the meeting to share some details about the Beach Wheelchair Program and get any feedback/questions from the committee. The chair will be available on a first-come, first-service basis and can be reserved for a half or full day, depending on availability. Those with a reservation will be asked to show their receipt to the lifeguard, but no credit card or ID is needed to reserve it (folks will be asked to log in through myrec and reserve it but can also do it by phone through the Rec office). The chair can be used in conjunction with the Mobi mat for the summer permit season, at Gibert Boucher Memorial Park.

The group suggested added something to the Biddeford Beat the week of July 26, for the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It could also be added to the list of resources that already exist on the committee's website.

- 4.b Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month - Proclamation

Maura made a motion to approve the proclamation; Anne seconded the motion; the motion passes unanimously.

4.c Pride Proclamation

Anne made a motion to approve the proclamation; Syed seconded the motion; the motion passes unanimously.

4.d Updates

1. Committee and City websites

A full list is now on the website, under the 'Community' tab, and includes a map and details for all public City bathrooms. Additional resources requested by the committee have also been added to the committee's page.

2. Pride

Currently, the flag raising for Pride is scheduled for Monday, June 2nd at 3pm. The Pride Proclamation, if approved, will be read on June 3rd. The committee will encourage citizens and students to attend one or both. The Heart of Biddeford is collaborating with a planning committee around a number of other events for Pride in June.

3. Juneteenth Event

This event will take place on Thursday, June 19th, from 3pm – 5pm, at The Foundry (Upper Falls Rd). Bob Greene will be speaking, in addition to Flo and Mayor Marty. Currently there are plans for a DJ and the planning committee is working on quotes for catering. Delilah is working on a market for local vendors and artists. The group will meet next week and please let Flo know if you have any suggestions or questions.

Shelly, Danica, and Flo will check in after the meeting to finalize the Juneteenth flyer.

4. Upcoming calendar events / call for volunteers

The group added in volunteers for upcoming events and Council meetings, and established a need for a volunteer to draft the Juneteenth Proclamation (Shelly will send a request to the full committee).

4.e Plans for June 17th, Council Presentation

The plan is to do a presentation that includes the past, present, and future work of the committee. Examples include:

Past:

- Committee Brochure
- Diversity Calendar
- Flag Policy – Oct 2023, approved by the Policy Committee
- Best Practices for Community Engagement
- Proclamation Decision Tree

Present

- Stats on write-ups, proclamations, partnerships across the City
 - Communicating what we share through the Beat
 - Events: River Jam, National Night Out, Pride, Juneteenth, Native American Heritage Month (McArthur Library), Black/Women’s History Reading, Malaga Island panel @ McArthur with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Black Student Union, Black History Walking Tour w/ HoB and Saco, City Council meetings
 - Partnerships: Recreation – ADA audit and beach wheelchair program, Heart of Biddeford, Blue Envelope Program (w/ GA & PD), Seeds of Hope, Menorah lighting, Congregation Etz Chaim, SMAA, United Way, CHCC

Future

- Long term public bathroom research project

4.f Public Bathrooms - Strategic Planning


The Chair decided to table this discussion based on timing and prioritizing other parts of the agenda.

5. 2nd Public Comment (3-minute limit per speaker)

No one from the public was present to comment.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 6:55PM.

City of Biddeford

The seal of the City of Biddeford, Maine, is circular. It features a central illustration of a factory or mill with a tall chimney, surrounded by a landscape with trees and water. The words "CITY OF BIDDEFORD" are written in a circle around the top, and "MAINE" is at the bottom. There are small stars on either side of the word "MAINE".

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation signed on January 1, 1863 declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free"; and

WHEREAS, more than two years later, on June 19, 1865, the last group of enslaved Americans, located in the City of Galveston, Texas, learned that the Civil War had ended, and that they were free from bondage; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day Black Americans were first recognized as citizens of this country and celebrates the accomplishments, inventions, triumphs, and resiliency of Black Americans.

WHEREAS, the legacy of Black-American resistance to systemic inequality, including suppression of the Black vote, redlining, police violence, and institutional racism, is a testament to the struggle, courage and hope of the Black community while reminding us that the struggle is not yet over; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth reminds us that while we are moving toward equity, equality and justice, we still have more to do to advance true equity in all aspects of civic life, and that we must always strive for a better future;

WHEREAS, the City of Biddeford reaffirms its commitment to our Black community and the fight against injustice.

WHEREAS, in honor of Juneteenth, Biddeford's Citizen DEI committee, Heart of Biddeford and the Maine Black Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a celebration which will take place on June 19, 2025, at 3pm, at the Foundry in downtown Biddeford;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, Martin Grohman, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, Maine do hereby recognize June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth in Biddeford and invite residents of Biddeford to join in celebrating how far we have come since the abolition of slavery, while actively engaging in the ongoing struggle for equity, equality, and justice both today and every day.

*In Witness Whereof, We the undersigned have herewith affixed
our signatures this 17th day of June 2025.*

City Clerk

Mayor