



**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7 PM, Monday, October 24, 2017
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ**

MINUTES

WELCOME – John Woods, Chairperson, Bambi Kuhl, Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and he read the statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act into the record.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Woods led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL.

Attending: John Woods, Bambi Kuhl, Beth Asaro, Kari Osmond, Beth Caruso & Sgt. Anthony Memolo (for Bruce Cocuzza)

Absent: Steve Stegman, Dan Seiter, Library person

MEETING MINUTES.

We were unable to review minutes from last meeting as we couldn't find them.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

Mr. Woods announced officially the Lambertville had scored a 98/100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Evaluation of LGBTQ rights and services. The council congratulated especially Mayor Dave and Cindy Ege for their hard work to make this happen. Each year's assessments are different and more comprehensive. GREAT WORK!

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Woods announced a couple of changes to the new business portion of the agenda. Ms. Roni Marino, Fisherman's Mark has been postponed until our November meeting, as will the discussion of DACA concerning Lambertville's Dreamers.

Instead, we discussed the following issues.

- A. Meeting schedule emphasizing best times for most members. Based on our discussion, we would like to move our meetings to an every other month schedule, preferring, the 2nd Monday of the month, starting on Monday November 13th, then 1/8/18, 3/12/18, 5/14/18, 7/9/18(if needed), 9/10/18, 11/12/18
- B. Based on our inability to achieve quorum at our last two meetings, Mr. Woods spoke to Mayor Dave about the possibility that some council members be allowed to appoint a designee to be part of the council either permanently or when that member was unable to attend. He advised that we forward a

request to him of which members would need this change. We discussed the issue and decided that Bruce Cocuzza, Dan Seiter and the Chair of the Library Board would benefit from this change. We will ask Cindy to send this request to the Mayor.

C. OPEN DISCUSSION:

What areas would we like to get involved with in 2018? In addition to Immigration Rights and HRC's annual evaluation what else.

- 1) In view of numerous stories of difficult "coming out as gay" situations. Most recently 17 yr old student at MCCC found suicided across the street from campus, it might help if there was a local (Lambertville-New Hope) chapter of PFLAG (self help org for families and friends of gay people)
- 2) Many LGBTQ elders have no partners, children or families. There is a well noted NY organization SAGE, a chapter of which could possibly be brought to our area.
- 3) It seems there are no known links between people in Lambertville and the NEW HOPE CELEBRATES (sponsor of Pride Parade et al activities) or FACT (area AIDS support organization). Perhaps we could explore how we in Lambertville might be more involved.
- 4) In addition, we have significant numbers of people with developmental, physical and psychiatric disabilities, seniors, teens in Lambertville. What about the idea of organizing members of these groups to offer something of value to the next WE ARE ONE LAMBERTVILLE festival, like volunteering, having a knitting booth, sing and dance presentations etc to build more inclusion ?

We will follow up on these ideas and prioritize and develop plans for if &/or how to move forward with these issues.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Updates on Picture ID Project in Lambertville—Roni Todd-Marino, Fisherman's Mark

FAIR & WELCOMING COMMUNITIES Project' Mr. Hal Glasser, ACLU People Power, Somerset County-- Discussion

Correspondence.

None.

Public Participation.

None.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m. with a motion made by Beth Asaro and 2nd BC.