

## **Commission for Diversity and Tolerance**

Meeting Notes/MLK Day of Service Planning

September 22, 2016

Senior/Community Center

Attendance: Tom Getz, Hannah Wilson , Sheila Treiff, Beth Horne, Peter Blaiwas, Kat Preftes, Kathleen Shaw

Call To Meeting 6:05 P.M.

After considering a number of options (and reviewing our mission statement) it was decided to hold a Day of Service in March or April 2017 with a racial justice theme. We would honor Newburyport abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Details are still being worked out but we know the following:

- \*When: March 25/26, April 1 or 2, April 7 or 8.(date to be chosen). The time has yet to be chosen. S. Treiff will meet with the clergy group on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will explore the possibility of a Sunday afternoon vs a Saturday.
- \*Where: One of the schools (per K. Preftes's meeting with Superintendent Viccaro, the schools are available free of charge).
- \*Who: Volunteers from Newburyport community providing service to local non-profits, congregations and other service groups.
- \*Why: William Lloyd Garrison combated racism and discrimination through there words and *deeds*. We hope to honor his commitment to racial justice by providing service projects-tangible ways to make a difference in the community.
- What: Newburyport's Day of Service, moving from talk to action. K. Shaw and H. Wilson will provide more language about the "what" and "why".

Peter Blaiwas has agreed to chair the event and will draft a letter for the next meeting. The letter would introduce the William Lloyd Garrison Day of Service to those who might offer a service project. The potential projects would come from non-profits, congregations and other service groups. Once the letter is sent, there would be a follow up phone call or meeting. Who, when and how to make those phone calls as well as to which agencies, congregation or service groups to call will be decided at the next meeting. K. Preftes and P. Blaiwas will meet with the non-profit (formerly Hugh Doyle) group at the Y once the details on the event are set. S. Treiff will meet with the clergy group on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

K. Preftes met with Ellie Davis of the YWCA. The following list of potential service providers or activities was suggested.

Pennies for Poverty  
IMPACT-service group at High School  
Leos-Lions group service group at High School  
Food pantry

K. Preftes met with Julia Amery of the First Religious Society (FRS) to discuss and gather ideas. FRS has had a Day of Service in the past but will not offer it this year. After greeting people with coffee and donuts, they assigned people to their project. They offered the following projects or worked with the following agencies.

Learning Enrichment Center  
Nourishing the North Shore  
Rail Trail Clean Up  
Rake Leaves  
Beach clean up  
Council on Aging  
Our Neighbors Table-dinners  
Pettingell House  
Roof Over Head  
Community Action  
Emmaus House

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:20 P.M.