

WHHRC Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2025

Location: Elmwood Community Center

Presiding Officer: Mark Linabury

Treasurer: Eric Schoenberg

Secretary: Alana Butler

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by Mark Linabury.

2. Roll Call / Attendance

Attendees: Mark Linabury, Eric Schoenberg, Alana Butler, Eva Jacobson, Katie Lance, Dave Ware

Absent: Bruno Venero

Town Representative: Pramod Pradhan

Non-members present: 3

Quorum: Confirmed

3. Approval of Minutes

- April minutes: Motion to approve April minutes; will be voted on in September meeting 2025
- March Minutes: Motion to amend March minutes; Vote on Amending Minutes – 4 in favor, 2 abstained. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

- Two guests expressed concerns regarding antisemitism and the need for education.
- One guest expressed the need for a fully staffed commission and a preference for action-oriented meeting minutes rather than overly detailed notes.

5. Officer & Committee Reports

- **Chair's Report:** Mark provided an update on a discussion with the Town Clerk and reiterated that this commission functions as a group, not as individuals.
- **Social Media & Engagement Subcommittee:** There have been 17 posts since the March meeting. The subcommittee is following social media guidelines.
- **Subgroup on Hate Crimes & Hate Speech:** This group developed three objectives and corresponding activities.

- Objectives include: Enhance visibility and awareness for reporting and support systems; Identify any patterns, system gaps, and barriers to reporting; Offer recommendations to the town for bridging any gaps.
- The group will begin outreach to key stakeholders.

6. Unfinished Business

- **Vision Zero:**
The DOT is moving forward with some automatic lights. There were concerns regarding recent fatalities of Shabbat-observant residents. There was conversation about increasing awareness around reflector vests and speeding issues. Recommendation made to invite speakers from the Bike/Pedestrian Commission and Bike West Hartford
- **FGM (Female Genital Mutilation):**
The bill was stalled and is not moving forward. Plans to discuss with Rep. Gilchrest before the next legislative session.
- **Community Concerns:**
A commissioner presented examples of concerns she has heard from community members around a variety of issues over the past few months (i.e., immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, food security, bike & pedestrian safety, etc.) and proposed developing a community-wide survey to get a better sense of these issues.
 - Broader discussion reflected agreement of this idea with a focus on crafting inclusive questions and seeking endorsement from the Town Council.
- **Commission Onboarding:**
Annual onboarding for all commissions is planned; notification will be sent soon.
- **Upcoming Events:**
Juneteenth celebration and Pride Parade.

7. New Business

- **Review of Town Council's Guidance for Public Meetings:**
Reminder that votes on meeting minutes will be recorded as such. No further action is required for meeting minutes not approved, beyond recording the vote.
- **High School Human Rights Clubs:**
Discussion will be moved to the September meeting.
- **Rights of Non-U.S. Citizens:**
Discussion tabled until the September meeting.

8. Motions

- Motion to approve April minutes; will be voted on in September meeting 2025
- Motion to amend March minutes: Passed (4 in favor, 2 abstained)

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Alana Butler

Date submitted: 6/10/25