

Human Rights Commission
January 25, 2023

Monthly Meeting

Present

Christopher Spicer-Hankle, Commissioner

Lara Versari, Commissioner

Steven Flythe, Deputy Director of Racial Justice Department

Members of the Public Present

Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, Interim Superintendent of Academics, Somerville Public Schools

Ana (a student living in Somerville)

Guest

Amanda Grant Rose (Deputy Director of the Winter Walk)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion on Winter Walk

Amanda Grant Rose spoke about the 7th annual Winter Walk Feb. 12th.

Notable points in the discussion include the following.

- Anticipating 3,000 this year, including those utilizing shelter organizations. a 2 mile adventure, snow, sleet or rain.
 - The vision emphasis serves job placement <https://winterwalk.org/vision>
 - 9-9:30 AM presentations at Copley Plaza. Walk route will go around The Embrace sculpture on the Common. People there to speak to the racial inequities for people who have lived experience of homelessness.

 - Family friendly, sit in a heated tent, canine family welcome too, will get doggy bag. A winter walk hat provided.
 - 13 partner organizations listed.
 - Felicity Beal--Somerville Homeless Coalition Development Director --could not be with us.
- Next event for SHC "Spring Into Action" *March 23, 2023*
- Our Spring Into Action Somerville Homeless Coalition event will return in 2023 with delicious local bites and live music. Join us as we celebrate an evening with friends

and supporters of Somerville Homeless Coalition and share the successes of our clients and our vision for the future.

- Simply log in with your normal Amazon account to **smile.amazon.com** and choose Somerville Homeless Coalition as your charity
- Year-round work in education-advocacy. Speaker Service—adapted to audience with age appropriate sharing on housing and homelessness issues.
- Leading a drop-in session once a once, learn a bit, and then source for service opportunities. A core understanding of systemic issues

Follow-up on Turtle Island Project

The commissioners approved a motion to request \$500 consultation with Wampanoag cultural adviser Aimeé Nicole Snyder Ledwell in addition to the cost of facilitation and supplies of the Turtle Island Project. Commissioners decided to move forward with plans with Dr. Jessica Boston Davis management of coordination with Kathleen Bailor, Director of Early education and care, as well as Chad Mazza, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum.

Action. Commissioner Christopher will send to Steven the request and reach out to Felix Caraballo, Principal of Capuano.

New Business: Somerville Youth Initiative

The commissioners approved a motion to request \$1396.98 in sponsorship of Somerville Youth Initiated Book Club.

Action. Commissioner Christopher will send to Steven the request.

Next meeting Feb 15, 6:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.