

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, October 2, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

Secretary's Report

The reading of the August minutes were deferred until the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jody Hoffer Gittell's report was accepted as amended.

President's Report

The annual summer picnic was held at the Eliot Boat Basin on August 20 and was a successful event.

The University Day Campus Picnic and Student Activities Fair was held at UNH on September 12. The Branch sponsored a table at this event.

The NEAC annual meeting was held September 22-September 23. Many issues were discussed, including the importance of Black men being tested for the early detection of prostate cancer.

A motion was made and passed at the October 2 Executive Committee meeting to donate \$250 to UNH Trio, which is planning a second Barbershop 2 event at which five barbers will come to the campus to give free haircuts to black students. The donation will cover one half of the fee for one barber. The Branch will also compile a list of barbershops and beauty parlors in the area where black students can have their hair cut and dressed.

The MLK Breakfast Committee has scheduled another committee meeting to be held on October 16 at the Portsmouth Public Library. The breakfast will be held on January 15, 2018 at the South Church in Portsmouth, with Sean McGhee as the keynote speaker.

Rogers plans to send letters to the Exeter, Hampton, Kittery, Oyster River, and Portsmouth school districts asking how the Branch can be involved in their upcoming MLK events.

The NAACP is involved on both a local and national basis in a racial incident in Claremont in which an eight-year old biracial boy was taunted and wounded by a group of teenagers who pushed him off a table with a noose around his neck. Rogers has also been involved in responses to racial incidents at the Mast Way Elementary School and the middle school in Durham.

Rogers reported on the September Branch meeting, which was held on the UNH campus with approximately 200 people in attendance. The meeting was dedicated to addressing recent racial issues on the campus and to showing support to students, faculty, and administrators of color, as well as beginning the process of establishing a college Chapter on the campus. Nineteen students signed up to become members of the Chapter.

Branch members at the meeting reported that the meeting was well-structured to provide for good communication between various groups. Attendees were impressed with the student participation, which showed that they were well-prepared to clearly present their concerns.

Rogers is now regularly attending meetings of the President's Committee on Campus Climate, which was established to deal with the numerous racial issues and incidents on campus.

Ongoing Business

Sarah Andrews, Sandi Clark, Linda Freeman, Danielle Hoffman, and Rogers Johnson met on September to discuss topics related to the Website. Sarah Andrews, Sandi Clark, and Linda Freeman met again on September, with Ned Savoie, owner of Harbour Light Strategic Marketing, which hosts the Website. Sandi Clark shared an extensive list of plans and developments for the Website.

New Business

Branch member Mary Stevens described the efforts of her daughter Beti, a student at Traip Academy, to raise awareness of systemic racism and white supremacy among her fellow students and begin honest conversations about these issues. She reported that Beti had received considerable backlash. Rogers noted that an editorial in the Portsmouth Herald had supported the nine members of the Traip soccer team, including Beti, who took a knee during the singing of the national anthem at a recent game. The Herald also condemned the backlash against these girls. Rogers will send a letter to Traip Academy, with a copy to Herald editor Howard Altschiller, commending Beti Stevens' activities and the Traip Nine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary