

NAACP Seacoast Branch 2070 Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2019

A. Executive Committee Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, Fred Ross, Renee' Goins, Irving Heugan, Jim "Bat" Kaddy, Phyllis Killam-Abell, Brad Randolph, Jon Ring, Jody Hoffer Gittell (arrived at 6:12), Judy Sharkey (arrived at 6:18), Nur Shoop (arrived at 6:20), Jeanne Graham (arrived at 6:20), Sandy Clark Kaddy (arrived at 6:20), Bob McElwain (arrived at 6:25), Anne Romney (arrived at 6:29).

1. Meeting was convened at 6:07 pm. Frances Elsemore, Secretary, was not present.
2. President Rogers Johnson said that he has been invited to speak tomorrow night on NH Public Radio "All Things Considered" about the Dover High School Teacher John Carver issue.
3. He said that many NH School Districts are considering curriculum changes.
4. Rogers added that the three youth in Claremont, who orchestrated the simulated hanging of a young Black man in August 2017 were sentenced to some time in juvenile jail.
5. Executive Session was closed at 6:35 pm.

B. Branch Membership Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, all members of the above Executive Committee, Sophie Pier Michelle (arrived 6:45), Ken Mendis (arrived 6:47) - (see meeting sign-in sheet).

1. Meeting was opened at 6:36 pm and Chaplain Irving Heugan led the Branch in prayer. There were introductions around the room.
2. Secretary Report was given by Jonathan Ring, who read the Minutes of July 1, which were approved as written.
3. Treasurer Report was given by Jody Hoffer Gittell, which was approved as presented. She said that there will be a Freedom Fund Dinner in the Spring.
4. President's Report by Rogers:
 - a. He told the Membership that the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion will establish an Executive Committee to write a Report to be issued by December. He asked related groups, such as Portsmouth Listens Anne Romney, and Racial Unity Team Ken Mendis to provide news and recommendations.
 - b. Rogers summarized the recent NH State Law that allows filing suit against a School District, such as Dover and Hampton, in the event of civil rights violations of students.
 - c. He noted that Teacher John Carver returns to work this month. Rogers will be interviewed Tuesday by NH Public Radio on this unfortunate situation.

- d. Fred interjected to nominate Rogers Johnson as the Freedom Fighter Award Recipient for 2019. All members agreed with much enthusiasm.
 - e. Rogers said that UNH President James Dean is doing a terrific job to address racial relations on the campus, and to work closely with the local police force Chief Paul Dean. Rogers lead a diversity training seminar for police and safety officials at UNH.
 - f. Rogers thanked all for their help and support of the NAACP Picnic held on August 4 at the Boat Pavilion in Eliot, Maine. Nur was especially appreciated for her leadership. The event raised over \$200 for the Branch. It was suggested that Picnic 2020 might be the second Sunday in August, and run from 2 – 5 pm to accommodate more attendees.
 - g. He will take part in an economic development discussion at Delta Dental Headquarters in Concord on August 8.
5. Anne Romney spoke about the “Portsmouth Listens” Community conversation dialogues this fall concerning Race Issues – Live, Work, and Play. They are looking to involve as many organizations as possible to assist and participate, including adults, students, and youth. There may be four sessions scheduled, with a Report following to the City Council and Business Leaders. The School District has asked to be involved.
 6. Phyllis Killam-Abell shared her vision to show the PBS Television Series titled “Reconstruction” as an educational program at Portsmouth Public Library this fall.
 7. Ken Mendis of Racial Unity Team invited all members to attend their events, most particularly Racial Unity Day September 28 at Exeter Town Hall to share their stories and experience – most especially people of color.
 8. There was much discussion about collaboration of efforts to educate and to coordinate responses to address racial unity and race relations in the Seacoast.
 9. Branch Delegates to the NEAC September Conference were approved: Rogers, Fred, Freddy, and Frances.
 10. Ken said that he would like to see more reporting of racial slurs and offences to the local Police and to the FBI.
 11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Ring, Assistant Secretary