

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, January 6, 2020**

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 minutes of the December 2 meeting were read and accepted with an addition.

President's Report

The Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion has delivered its final report to Governor Sununu.

The NAACP Annual Convention will be held in Boston in July. The Branch will be expected to help with logistics, etc. National will also hold a Regional Training session in Hartford, Rhode Island on April 24-25.

The NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on May 2, 2020.

Portsmouth Listens will begin a new round of meetings later in January.

We are in the process of planning for the MLK Jr. Breakfast on January 20. Rogers will attend the church service to be held at the North Church on January 19.

Committee Reports

Jon Ring shared information about plans for the MLK Jr. Breakfast and distributed posters for members to post wherever possible in their communities.

Jody Hoffer Gittell discussed the planning underway for the 2020 Freedom Fund Dinner. The dinner will be held at The Tuscan Kitchen Restaurant on Lafayette Road in Portsmouth on Friday, May 8. Members voted for a buffet style dinner.

Other business

Anne Romney reported that the second phase of Portsmouth Listens community dialogues will begin in late January, with a four-week study circle led by trained facilitators. Participants will share, brainstorm, and deliberate on "how equity and inclusion can make Portsmouth the best place to live, work, and play for everyone." The process will explore how we can move from where we are today to the vision of an "equitable and inclusive community." Portsmouth Listens will put out a survey so people can anonymously share their experiences, whether positive or negative.

John Cochrane spoke of the latest developments relating to the problem of bullying in the Hampton School system. Although the new Superintendent has reported that "we're better now," there have been further instances of bullying in the system, and he feels that "nothing has been learned or gained." Established rules for dealing with cases of bullying are still not being followed, even though there are bills in the works providing for criminal consequences when a school does not comply with these laws and policies. The Office of Civil Rights is still investigating the situation in Hampton. Meanwhile, the Cochranes' daughter is doing well in her new school, and is happy that finally, someone has heard and believed her. John thanked the Branch for its support.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary