

# **Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women**

December 2, 2015

Commission Meeting

## **Upcoming Events**

### **December 3 Women and Words! Herstory: Women in Beer from Ancient Greece to Cambridge**

7pm-8:30pm 344 Broadway

When did beer become a “guy thing”? How have women historically been involved in beer culture? How are women in the beer industry viewed today? Come hear a lively discussion led by home brewer and certified Beer Judge Kristen Sykes, founder of Boston Area Beer Enthusiasts Society (BABES), a beer club empowering women in the beer industry and introducing women to all things related to beer.

### **December 14, Women in Cambridge Networking**

6pm-8pm, Ten Thousand Villages, Mass Ave; featured non-profit -- the Cambridge Cambodian School

### **December 17, Outreach and Engagement to GLBTQ Communities (Community Engagement Team Event)**

9am-12pm Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave

### **January 6, CCSW Monthly Meeting**

6pm-8pm

## **Minutes**

### **Conflict of Interest Law reporting**

Commissioners used a few moments at the start of the meeting to familiarize themselves again with the State’s conflict of interest law and the requirement to sign the form acknowledging the parameters of the law.

### **Engaging Men in Anti-Violence Work**

The Women’s Commission is pleased to report on the new effort underway to engage men in the issue of men’s violence against women. Part of the Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative’s assets and needs assessment report, highlighted the importance of men contributing to the solution. We will work as allies with the more than 20 men from various Cambridge organizations and agencies who came together for the initial meeting. The idea is to create a meaningful and accessible way for men to engage other men on the importance of their role in ending violence against women. We will appropriately partner and support the new undertaking as the goals become defined. The next meeting is scheduled for early 2016.

### **Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative**

Another area of the Initiative that the Women’s Commission will be directly supporting is the prevention and youth efforts. Again, as a result of the assets and needs report, prevention and youth engagement is a critical component to reducing violence. There are many needs in this particular section and we will work closely with

the Initiative's coordinator to implement and support identified programs to improve the lives of young people in Cambridge.

### **March Women's History Month Suggestions/Ideas**

We asked the commissioners for their ideas and suggestions as we think about celebrating Women's History Month in March, 2016. It was mentioned that last year we screened a film and had a discussion with the director about the caste system in Nepal and its effect on women's lives there. This year some ideas included a hosting a panel to discuss where black women are in relation to the #BlackLivesMatter movement. We will continue to think through this and other ideas, along with potential speakers and/or panelists.

### **Commissioner Updates**

Srin has been working on getting an equivalent of our *Promptacular* workshop for boys and gender non-conforming students so that their role in a safe and healthy prom is also addressed and discussed. She has met with several people in the city and has come away from those meetings unclear about how to proceed. She and Kimberly will schedule a meeting to strategize the next steps in making this project possible.