

Town meeting and RASEC budget request for hiring a DEI specialist

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

I was really disappointed in the way the Annual meeting was conducted - both that we continued with the Zoom approach and with the way the budget discussions went.

Regarding the RASEC budget request for DEI funds, the issue for me is that it is unclear exactly what RASEC is proposing regarding DEI training vs. hiring a DEI specialist, which are different discussions as I see it.

The request from RASEC asks that a DEI specialist be hired but then discusses the need for DEI training in the Town. I would be in favor of the Town offering DEI training for interested parties (including the councilors, mayor, and committee members) but I would not support the hiring of a DEI specialist with vague duties. I have serious concerns about how a DEI specialist would conduct business in Town - I could see a lot of possibly well-meaning, but ugly confrontations taking place in Town given how forcefully RASEC has been in presenting its ideas and issues. I don't think such a position is warranted. I also have concerns that I articulated in an earlier letter about non-Town residents and their roles in Town committees.

Thanks,
Liz Everhart
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