

From: [Elissa Cobb](#)
To: [Bristol Town Administrator](#)
Cc: knight@gmavt.net
Subject: Stepping back from the Equity Committee - Elissa Cobb
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 9:56:04 AM

Good Morning Val,

I am forwarding to you the following letter I sent to Porter yesterday. Thank you for all the good work you do for Bristol.

Warmly,
Elissa Cobb

Hi Porter,

I am writing to let you know that I need to step back from the Equity Committee. Since the select board meeting, I have been struggling with some increasingly difficult personal issues that have been accumulating over the last year or so. And there are some family health issues that are gathering intensity as well. As a matter of self-care, I am stepping back from a few things to give my self room to work with the life edges at hand. I am concerned that my ability to focus on the tasks of the Equity Committee and my ability to be present at meetings will be compromised. I am glad that we have an alternate that can take my spot.

That said, and for what it is worth, I did discover that there are several other town Equity Committees. I am hoping the Bristol committee might benefit from their experiences.

Also, after conversations with BIPOC folks on this topic, there was much agreement with a vision of the committee that I was hoping to add. This is to consider and learn from studying inequities common through Bristol's history, from its former black community til now, perhaps partnering with the Historical Society and asking the hard questions of why and how the inequities occurred and questioning between the racial lines written on paper and is stories, I think it supports where we are going to question where we have been.

I also suggest dissecting the process of the bandstand debate as a perfect example of how equity faces challenges in our town. A great deal could be learned by doing so, which could support the committee's considerations going forward.

Thank you for your email asking me to consider being on the committee. I felt honored to be considered and encouraged. Perhaps later down the road. And thanks for understandind my current needs. I do wish you all the best, and the committee much success.

All things good,
Elissa