

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com

Regular Meeting

Tuesday July 8, 2025

7:00 PM

Waverly Senior Center -7 Waverly Avenue, Portland Connecticut 06480

In-person and Zoom B -- ID: 352 700 8408 / Password 113ct

Members Present: Cynthia "Cindy" Tyler (chair), Glenn "PJ" Eason, Hope Jones, Jacquilyn "Jackie" Davis, Liz Hibino, Nancy Goodwin, Drey Farmer (student rep), Eunice Ngunjiri (student rep). Via Zoom: Liz Hibino.

Members of the Public Present: Via Zoom: Emily "Em" Bickhardt.

Members Absent: Kristy Fuller (alternate), Shelly Nolan (alternate).

1. **Cindy called the meeting to order at 7:05.**
2. **Approve agenda:** There was a motion by Nancy, seconded by Jackie, to approve the meeting agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
3. **Correspondence / Public Comment:** Jackie reported on updates from the Social Justice Leadership Network "SJLN," a regional group which has invited up to 3 members from local organizations to join them. We clarified that Cindy, Jackie and Hope will represent our committee to the SJLN.
4. **Approve minutes:** There was a motion by Jackie, seconded by Nancy, to approve meeting minutes from June 10, 2025. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
5. **Donations and budget updates:** PJ reported donations deposited in June: the Pride t-shirt fundraiser totaling \$329 and a donation to the Pride workgroup by Cynthia Tyler of \$300. Juneteenth total income from vendors and advertisements was \$1450. Juneteenth expenses paid out by the Solidarity account were a total of \$1525.56. (This includes payments to the band *At Last* for \$1000, an honorarium to facepainter Ana Ughetti for \$200, to PHS students and staff for lighting/sound for \$157.07 and to Minuteman Press for yard signs and program sheets for \$168.49.) The updated balance for our fund is \$3,340.81.
6. **Solidarity in the Community**

- a. **Discuss publicity:** Hope shared updated logo drafts. There was a motion by Nancy, seconded by Jackie to move forward with one of the drafts including the Arrigoni bridge. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Discussion around T shirts. Em shared a fundraising website bonfire.com. PJ will evaluate costs of a website. Hope will look into a banner/cloth with our new logo. There was a motion by Jackie, seconded by Nancy to approve up to \$100 for the banner. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
 - b. **Town events & meetings; Sign-ups for Board of Selectmen meetings:** July - Cindy. Aug - PJ. Sept - Drey. The August Solidarity meeting will be cancelled and available committee members will set up a table at the Riverfront Park concert that evening.
 - c. **Rivereast Solidarity column:** July - Nancy. Aug - Hope. Sept - Jackie.
 - d. **Solidarity calendar and banners:** Public Works put up the vertical Solidarity banners for about a week since our request went out late. Discussion around asking if the banners can be hung during months that are not already booked with other town banners. Regarding the calendar, discussion around July being disability pride month. Em agreed to draft a facebook post to acknowledge this. She noted that October is spina bifida month. Perhaps a disability awareness event in October or next July. It was also noted that Portland resident Sarah Spear recently published a book about her experiences as a mom of a child with a disability.
- 7. **DEIA efforts in Portland Schools and Town Departments:** tabled to a fall meeting.
 - 8. **Pride updates:** PJ will reach out to the new GSA contact. He reported that the workgroup has struggled to get students involved and asked our new student reps to help with this. The workgroup has a focus on making youth feel safe in our community. The student reps were receptive to this. The workgroup will plan a meeting in August.
 - 9. **Juneteenth updates:** the event was well attended, especially given the weather and other competing events. Speakers, food, vendors were excellent. CoS

members feel it is an unsustainable amount of work to put on this large of an annual celebration and are interested in exploring different options for next year.

10. **Voices of Portland updates.** Liz reported on the book of transcripts which is almost finished. Discussion around whether the book could be sold as a fundraiser. Perhaps proceeds could go toward the plaque for Eugenie Shaw. Liz will bring this back to the Voices committee to discuss after the grant is completed.
11. **Open Discussion/Public Comment:** Cindy reported about protest marches occurring in Portland. She also reported on a free 3-day seminar she attended on undoing racism which she highly recommended.
12. **Adjourn meeting:** There was a motion by PJ, seconded by Jackie to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Vote unanimous, motion carried.