

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com

Regular Meeting

Tuesday May 13, 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: Cindy Tyler (chair), Glenn "PJ" Eason, Hope Jones, Jackie Davis, Liz Hibino, Nancy Goodwin.

Also Present: Jennifer Billingsly "JBill", Portland Library.

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

1. Cindy called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and completed roll call.
2. **Approve Agenda:** There was a motion by Nancy, seconded by Jackie, to approve today's agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
3. **Correspondence / Public Comment:** Liz shared information on the Middlesex Immigrant Rights Alliance (MIRA) and Cultural Connections. Folks interested in protecting immigrant rights can email mirarightsct@gmail.com to be added to the email list/learn more, and folks interested in learning about educational & social opportunities for immigrant families and the community can email cultural.conn@gmail.com to be added to their email list/learn more. Liz also shared that Alice Shumacher, a former Portland Social Justice Coalition member, gave her a folder of social work/social justice articles and Liz expressed that the committee members are all welcome to look through it. Nancy and Jackie shared that they attended the first in-person Social Justice Leadership Network (SJLN) Meeting which was very informative.
4. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** April 8, 2025 - There was a motion by Nancy, seconded by PJ, to approve the meeting minutes. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
5. **Donations and budget updates:** Current balance \$3,861.53 There was a \$50 donation to Voices of Portland, made by Kim Fischburg. There was a \$225

deposit made from Juneteenth vendor fees. There was a \$1055 deposit made from Juneteenth advertisement sales.

6. Solidarity in the Community

- a. Solidarity column of Rivereast: Hope will draft the June edition, Nancy will draft it in July and Cindy/Liz will draft August's.
- b. Discussed options: Promo video: Jackie would be happy to help starting in July if we want to create a workgroup to brainstorm plans and determine the goal of the video. Logo: Hope will email ideas to the committee. Website: PJ offered to make a simple website, Jackie offered to help if needed. Social media: suggestion to post events in SJLN facebook page. Podcast: JBill suggested if we have something big to promote, to talk to Mike Pelton about making a "guest appearance" on the Portland podcast.
- c. Town events & meetings; Sign-ups for Board of Selectmen meetings: May- Liz. June: PJ. July: Cindy.
- d. Quarry Day 5/31: Committee members will be there to table from 10-4.

7. DEIA efforts in Portland Schools & Town Departments:

- a. Schools: Liz updated that Ryan Ott, PHS Black & Latino Studies teacher informed her that the two student representatives to the CoS had been selected, he would like the students to start getting involved in June and set up an introductory meeting prior, schedules permitting. He will also reach out about dates for a Voices of Portland panel in his class.
- b. Town: Social Services collaboration: Liz will reach out to Courtney (PYFS) to ask for a CoS rep to be included in the next meeting. Social Work in Law Enforcement (SWLE): Reminder about the CT bill supporting police social workers and police training, CGA is still accepting public testimony. Jackie reported her workplace is training police officers in CT in mental health first aid.

8. SOBA (State of Black America) discussion group updates: There were no attendees to the April meeting. Postponing future meetings until a more committed group is able to form; will continue with recruitment.

- 9. Fair Housing Month / Americans With No Address film screening:** The event was successful, with 60 people in attendance, good discussion and many resources shared. We will share a resource list Jackie created, to the Portland Social Justice facebook page.
- 10. AAPI Heritage Month / They Called Us Enemy book discussion:** The event was a success, with 16 people in attendance, including several walk-ins so that we moved to a larger room at the library. It was an intergenerational group with robust discussion. JBill and Liz are working on a resource list to share with attendees.
- 11. Pride updates:** The t-shirt fundraiser closed and raised \$329 which will be deposited in the CoS account. Tie-dying on the green event cosponsored by Library & PYFS will be held on June 4, 5:30-7:30PM - All are welcome to march with us in the Middletown Pride March on June 7. [PortlandPRIDEsvp.com](https://portlandpride.org)
- 12. Juneteenth updates:** Saturday June 14th - 12-5 PM at Portland Middle School. Also Flag Day, we will have Veterans Affairs Commission w/collection box for used flags. Local Black veterans will be speaking, poetry, live music, food and merchandise vendors, free ice cream sponsored by Liberty Bank. Storywalk, facepainting and other games/children's activities.
- 13. Voices of Portland updates:** The team is working on final edits for the panel recording.
- 14. Summer schedule of Solidarity meetings:** TBD.
- 15. Open Discussion/Public Comment:** None.
- 16. Adjourn Meeting:** There was a motion by PJ, seconded by Jackie to adjourn at 8:19PM. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Hibino