

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com

Regular Meeting

Tuesday October 14, 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: Glenn "PJ" Eason, Hope Jones, Jacquilyn "Jackie" Davis, Liz Hibino (on Zoom), Nancy Goodwin, Drey Farmer (student rep), Eunice Ngunjiri (student rep).

Also Present: Jennifer Billingsley "JBill" and Ayanna Wright, Portland Library

Members Absent: Cynthia Tyler (chair), Emily Bickhardt, Kristy Fuller (alternate), Shelly Nolan (alternate).

1. **Call Meeting to Order / Roll Call / Introductions.** Nancy Goodwin called meeting to order at 7:00pm. JBill introduced Portland Library's new part-time librarian, Ayanna Wright.
2. **Approve Agenda.** Addition of Social Justice Leadership Network "SJLN" November 1 meeting in Middletown. There was a motion by PJ, seconded by Jackie, to approve the agenda with this addition (Agenda item #13). Vote unanimous, motion carried.
3. **Correspondence/Public Comment.** No correspondence or public comment.
4. **Approve Meeting Minutes.** There was a motion by Jackie, seconded by PJ to approve the minutes from September 9, 2025. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
5. **Donations and Budget.** Hope was reimbursed for the Table Banner with logo. The total cost before tax was \$101.04.
6. **Solidarity in the Community**
 - a. Creation of a workgroup for the free publicity video: Jackie, PJ and Eunice will meet in November. Website is being worked on.
 - b. Sign up for Board of Selectman meetings: Oct: PJ, Nov: Jackie (not on agenda due to election), Dec: Cindy (will confirm). Rivereast Solidarity column: November, Drey and Eunice; December, Hope.

- c. Reviewed Solidarity Calendar.
7. **DEIA efforts in Portland Schools and Town Departments.** GSA advisors for Portland Middle School are Sarah Green and Melissa Starkowski. Carmen Winter (PHS Spanish Teacher) would like to plan a big event with food and games for Hispanic heritage month. Library might offer help with this project, maybe a display piece at the school and library. Jackie has 4 years of cultural corner boards on Hispanic culture that she offered to share.
 8. **PRIDE updates.** Tentative Nov 8 workgroup meeting at Library for 2026 events.
 9. **Juneteenth updates.** Tentative date June 20th. Workgroup is looking to add members. A Savvy Swap employee would like to join the workgroup.
 10. **Voices of Portland updates.** Committee is still meeting to plan future events.
 11. **AAPI Heritage Month event.** Liz's aunt-in-law is still interested in participating in an event in May relative to her Japanese American family's experience of mass incarceration during WWII.
 12. **Disability Awareness event.** Tabled to next meeting.
 13. **The Social Justice Leadership Network of CT** will host their Fall meeting on November 1st from 9:30-12pm, 1st Congregational Church of Middletown. Title: *Beyond Book Clubs: How community-based social justice groups can stay true to their mission of addressing systemic racism.* Jackie, Hope, Drey, Eunice and Cindy will attend. There was a motion by Nancy, seconded by Hope to approve the \$100 suggested donation to contribute to speaker fees. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Jackie will send in names and request a check for the event.
 14. **Open Discussion/Public Comment.** Taste of Middletown: Oct. 22nd at Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown. 5-8:30 VIP, \$75 and 6 pm, \$50. No Kings Day Rally at Harbor Park in Middletown, Oct. 18th.
 15. **Adjourn Meeting.** There was a motion by PJ, seconded by Jackie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Hope Jones & Liz Hibino