

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
7:00 pm
The Waverly Senior Center and Zoom B

Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm by Glenn Eason.

Glenn read the roll call.

Present: Glenn Eason (chairperson) Elizabeth Hibino, Nancy Goodwin, Hope Jones (note-taker, ZOOM)

Absent: Erin Livensparger, Tina Prakash, Shelly Nolan (Alternate), Kristy Fuller (Alternate)

Approval of Agenda

A motion by Nancy Goodwin to approve the agenda. Seconded by Elizabeth Hibino. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Correspondence/Public comment

Correspondence — none

Public comment

Comment — none

Approval of Minutes for July 11, 2023

There was a motion by Elizabeth Hibino seconded by Nancy Goodwin to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Donations and Budget

No new donations. In future we'll keep a line item for budget or donations. Elizabeth will ask Ryan if we are required to do any bookkeeping and if the \$1,000 is part of the town budget.

**September 18th Book Discussion - Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man
by Emmanuel Acho**

6:30 pm at Mary Flood room, Portland Library

Discussion around offering book to the Police Dept, Youth Services Dept, and Board of Education as former liaisons with the Task Force on Solidarity. Discussed Committee's intent to include all town employees in the invitation to read and come to the event, without pressure.

Nancy Goodwin will contact Sgt. Cunningham to offer the book & invite the dept. to the discussion. She will also ask him if he has any ideas about community events and let him know the Committee appreciated his presence at Juneteenth. Solidarity Committee members hope to collaborate with the police dept. in the future. Youth Services administrator has not been hired yet to our knowledge. Outreach to the schools about this event will happen later in the summer. We will also ask for the flyer to be sent to all town employees, and the subcommittee will help with additional advertising.

The committee is continuing to look for a Black discussion leader to co-facilitate with Christy. Suggestion of Richard Hollant from Middletown Free Center; Elizabeth will reach out to him. He is a Portland resident as well. Glenn will reach out to Ace Ricker from QPlus who leads support groups in Portland, if Richard is not available.

Christy offered to write a draft description of the event.

The library cannot provide refreshments for this event. Discussed CT Humanities matching grant for discussion leader compensation - may be too quick a turn around. Suggestion of Richard Hollant from Middletown Free Center. He is a Portland resident as well.

Resources Brochure

Andy at Parks and Rec did say Committee can bring brochures to Fun Run, summer concerts and Parks and Rec office.

Elizabeth Hibino will reach out to Ana for translation

Glenn Eason will bring brochures to last summer concerts.

Report from PRIDE sub-committee

Committee hasn't set a date. Previously Jenn B. offered Van Bynam room at Library and to assist in planning. Glenn will check with rest of committee for date. Glenn will contact GSA at high school and middle school.

Some suggestions for events: Stonewall speakers, a CT group, panel discussion cost of \$200. A movie screening of *Lightyear* or *Strange World*, both PG.

Also on Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20th, honor the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence by reading aloud all of their names.

Timing would be after elections in November.

Report from Juneteenth sub-committee

Had a debriefing meeting on August 3rd. Discussed what worked and what might be tweaked. Additional co-sponsors for next year like the Portland Historical Society and Middlesex United Way. The Historical Society is planning a year long focus on the black community in Portland. Suggested having smaller committees for organizing food and another for the place including a place due to bad weather. Questioned if the groups should make the final decisions or bring it to the Committee on Solidarity for final decision.

Thank you notes for help with Juneteenth. Get together at Nancy's on Friday the 11th at 2 pm to write the notes.

Also send something through the Rivereast as a generic thank you to those that helped and their publishing of the event.

Sarah and Alexis thank you notes and help Sarah with a project. Send an email to Ryan Curley.

Sustainable CT would be a good resource for Juneteenth.

Report on Outreach to Community Committees and Organizations

Committee continued discussion of ideas to focus on one committee or town dept. per month; see next agenda item below.

Updates/Discussion on Task Force Survey Actions

Discussed the outreach to police department for August and outreach to the schools in September.

Review Sign-ups for reporting at Board of Selectmen meetings

Kristy — August, Hope will contact, to see if she is still able to do that and will switch with her if not.

Hope — September

Open discussion: — none

Public Comment — none

Adjourn

Elizabeth Hibino motioned to adjourn and Nancy Goodwin seconded. Vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Hope Jones
Committee on Solidarity