

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023  
7:00 pm  
The Waverly Senior Center and Zoom B  
In-person and Zoom B ID: 362 700 8408 Passcode: 113ct

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm by Glenn Eason.

Glenn read the roll call.

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

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

Public: Jennifer Billingsley and Victoria Short

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion by Glenn Eason, seconded by Nancy Goodwin to approve the agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes for August 8, 2023**

There was a motion by Elizabeth Hibino seconded by Kristy Fuller to approve the minutes from August 8th 2023 with a change to the date at the top from July 11th to August 8th. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

### **Correspondence/Public comment**

Correspondence from Jennifer Billingsley for book discussion for September 18th.

Elizabeth reported on her conversation with Lt. Matthew Solak, a Willimantic police lieutenant who is moving to Portland and who co-founded the Social Work Law Enforcement Project <http://swleproject.com/> which has now become a statewide initiative and grown into a national network. Matt would be willing to speak with the Committee about his work bringing social workers onto police forces.

### **Donations and Budget**

Donation fund is set up and Ryan has approved \$1,000. for this year.

### **Book Discussion**

25 people have registered for the upcoming *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*. September 18th at 6:30 pm in the Mary Flood room at the library.

Nancy Goodwin, Elizabeth Hibino met with facilitators, Christy Billings and Rich Hollant on 9/11/23. Ground rules worked on by Christy and Rich will be provided. Jennifer Billingsley will

print them and display on screen. A sign-in sheet will be provided with a book list to be available at the end. PJ's business will supply bottled water. Solidarity committee members will arrive at 6 pm to help set up. Flyers have been handed out locally, put in the Rivereast, a Facebook event, through email lists and on the town website. If interest, may have a 2nd event. Also we can apply for a grant through CT Humanities Book Voyagers program to sponsor an event with the young readers version.

### **Resources Brochure**

Elizabeth will email school principals about printed copies for schools or sending digital copy to be put in their newsletter. Elizabeth will be in touch with Ana again for Spanish translation.

### **PRIDE Committee**

Glenn and Jennifer B. are working on plans for PRIDE. First part of October for a planning meeting and engage Portland community in the plans. May move event to November and have National Coming Out Day, October 11th, remembered by sending out information to our regular contacts. Jennifer B. will look for something. Glenn will contact Gay/Straight Alliance and schools.

### **Juneteenth**

Started monthly meetings with planning for sponsors on 9/5/23. Library was contacted: They will participate with the story walk, with the same book as last year. Because of the timing they won't be able to participate at the event but will help with CT Humanities support. Jennifer B. suggested having a solid plan by February to meet with them, application by March 1st, and will find out in April. Nancy Goodwin will check with the Historical Society and NAACP in Middlesex. Elizabeth reached out to Habitat for Humanity, Chatham Children's Connections and will check with the United Way.

Suggestion of hosting at the High School. On the lawn and inside for rain or heat. Suggestion of having it on the 15th. Elizabeth will contact Dr. Britton or the Principal and ask about using the space, and custodian availability.

### **Outreach to Committees and Organizations & Survey Actions**

August outreach by Nancy with the police department. Upcoming outreach to historical society by Nancy on September 26th at 7 pm. What are they doing with local Black history and how can we help. Discussed continuing outreach throughout the town to let folks know about our Committee. Nancy volunteered to submit a monthly blurb to the Rivereast about our meetings. Glenn suggested having representation from our Committee at town events.

### **Vote on Chairperson and Note-taker for October-December**

Elizabeth Hibino – chairperson

Nancy Goodwin – co-chair

Glenn Eason – note-taker

### **Sign-ups for reporting at Board of Selectmen**

Hope Jones, Sept, Elizabeth Hibino, Oct, Glenn Eason, Nov, Glenn Eason, Dec

**Open discussion and public comment**

Hispanic Heritage month, September 15th-October 15. Elizabeth will contact Dave Kuzminski to ask town to include on website.

**Adjourn Meeting**

8:26 by Glenn and seconded by Nancy. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hope Jones for the  
Committee on Solidarity