

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday January 10, 2023

Present in person: Nancy Goodwin, Liz Hibino, Hope Jones (Chair), Erin Livensparger (Vice Chair).

Present via speakerphone: Shelly Nolan (Alternate).

Absent: Glenn Eason, Kristy Fuller (Alternate).

**Minutes:**

1. Hope Jones called the meeting to order at 7:17pm once the committee had a quorum.
2. **Roll Call:** Liz Hibino completed the roll call & introductions of the two members of the public who were present.
3. **Approve Agenda:** It was noted that the agenda stated that October 2022 minutes needed to be approved when actually it is September 2022 minutes which have not been posted yet and will need to be approved (since the October meeting was cancelled). There was a motion by Liz Hibino seconded by Nancy Goodwin to approve the agenda with the replacement of October minutes with September minutes. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
4. **Correspondence / Public Comment:**
  - a. Public Comment: Peg Kirkpatrick shared that she wants to learn more about the Committee and how she can help. She inquired about the surveys which were completed by the Task Force and Solidarity Committee, and any actions that have been taken in response to the surveys. Members discussed that survey results had been shared to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education when the surveys were completed; results or a summary can be sent to folks who are interested. Erin Livensparger shared that creating and sharing the resource pamphlet was an action taken in response to the surveys, since many residents reported they were unaware of local services which are available. Members agreed that it would be helpful to review the survey results and actions taken.  
**Actions: Shelly Nolan will email survey results to Liz Hibino who will share them with the committee. Hope will add this item to next month's agenda.**
  - b. Correspondence: Liz Hibino shared information regarding an upcoming regional meeting of social justice leaders which will take place in Colchester next Tuesday 1/17. Liz also shared an email from Jesse Revicki regarding upcoming YFS events: Youth Listening Circle (regional) and LGBTQ+ support groups/social events for youth and parents, in collaboration with QPlus and Portland Library.
5. **New Members:** There was discussion about filling the two vacant spots on the Committee. Discussion around the racial makeup of the Committee and a desire to increase racial diversity. Hope Jones shared that she had reached out to a friend who may be interested and is waiting to hear back. Liz Hibino shared that she emailed the Portland Social Justice Coalition email list regarding the openings and ways that folks can learn more and get involved. Discussion was initiated by Shelly Nolan around

participation in meetings having been more robust when meetings were more accessible on Zoom. Members agreed to put the topic of adding a hybrid option for the public on the agenda for next meeting. **Action: Hope Jones will add this item to February's agenda.**

6. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from September 2022 haven't been accessed yet – tabled to next meeting. A motion was made by Erin Livensparger seconded by Nancy Goodwin to approve the December 13, 2022 minutes. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
7. **Minute Takers:** Discussion around selecting a minute-taker through March, which can be revisited when a new Chair and Vice Chair are elected. Liz Hibino offered to take minutes for this time period. A motion was made by Erin Livensparger seconded by Nancy Goodwin to elect Liz Hibino as minute taker through March 2023. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
8. **Sign up for Board of Selectmen Meetings:** Hope Jones noted that BOS meeting times have changed to 7PM. Volunteers signed up to present at each second BOS meeting of the month or send an update regarding Solidarity Committee work. Shelly Nolan volunteered for 1/18/23. Erin Livensparger volunteered for 2/15/23. Hope Jones volunteered for 3/15/23. Liz Hibino volunteered for 4/19/23. If the assigned member cannot attend, an update can be emailed to our BOS Liaison, Mike Hernandez. Shelly Nolan will reach out to Ryan Curley regarding the time of the presentations.
9. **New email for Committee on Solidarity:** Kristy Fuller created an email address that the public can use to contact the Committee: [PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com). Nancy Goodwin asked if this email will go on the Solidarity Committee page on the town website.
10. **Resource Pamphlet corrections and additions:** some corrections were discussed. A motion was made Liz Hibino seconded by Nancy Goodwin to continue this discussion at next meeting. Vote unanimous; motion carried. Hope will make sure all members have the most recent draft of the brochure.
11. **Construction at Waverly Center (January – June):** Hope Jones shared that Lynn Tracey, Director of Waverly Center, informed us that while the room should be available next month, she will need to confirm with us and notice of availability may be less than 24 hours in advance. It was discussed and agreed on if the room is not available next month (within less than 24 hours notice), the meeting will move to Zoom. **Action: Hope Jones will contact Dave Kuzminski regarding use of the Zoom link.**
12. **Review Calendar of Events from 2022:** Erin Livensparger shared the events the Committee sponsored or participated in last year:
  - Solidarity Banners (June)
  - Library Anniversary Celebration (June) – this was specific to 2022
  - Disability Forum (June)
  - PRIDE Rally (June)
  - Juneteenth Celebration (June)
  - National First Responders Month (Oct)
  - Resource Pamphlet

### 13. Suggestions for Events in 2023:

- a. Erin shared via email several websites with other notable dates which events could be planned around. Discussion around trying to not have so many events in June, and spread things out throughout the year; perhaps quarterly.
  - b. Discussion around participating in events that other communities are sponsoring, as a way to be involved but not have to do all of the planning ourselves. Shelly Nolan shared re: trying to have Portland participate in Middletown's PRIDE event for the past few years. There was unanimous support on the committee for that. Erin Livensparger shared that the foundation she works for helped to fund QPlus, a local LGBTQ+ organization. QPlus is building a relationship with Portland Youth & Family Services. Discussion around how we can support these relationships and opportunities.
  - c. Priorities discussed for our Committee to sponsor are the Juneteenth Celebration and Solidarity Banners. Hope Jones shared that when she presented at the BOS Meeting last month, members were supportive of displaying the banners again. There was a question of where the banners are being stored and Public Works was mentioned.
  - d. Discussion on Partnerships: PRIDE – Partnering with Middletown for the parade. Other LGBTQ+ events – learning more about what YFS and the Library are doing and how we can support their work. Disability Forum – Partnering with the Library again, perhaps at a different time of year. Discussion around involvement in a MLK event next year, as well as Black History Month.
  - e. Hope Jones shared an idea of having a specific subcommittee for each event.
  - f. Erin suggested that at the next meeting we come up with which events we will focus on for the following 2 quarters and discuss any related budgetary concerns.
14. **Open Discussion:** There was a question about what the age range is for youth that are being included in the listening circle with YFS. **Action: Liz Hibino will contact Jesse Revicki to find out.** There was discussion around the town website and what information can be shared there (ie. Survey summary, resource pamphlet). Shelly shared that in the past there were many regulations about what could be added to the website, so most Solidarity information was shared to social media instead.
15. **Public Comment:** None.
16. A motion was made by Liz Hibino seconded by Nancy Goodwin to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by Liz Hibino.