

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com

Regular Meeting

Tuesday February 21, 2023

7:00 PM

Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland Connecticut 06480

In-person and Zoom B -- ID: 352 700 8408

Present: Hope Jones (Chair), Liz Hibino, Glenn "PJ" Eason, Nancy Goodwin, Kristy Fuller (Alternate), Shelly Nolan (Alternate).

Absent: Erin Livensparger.

Others in attendance: Tim Lavoy (Board of Education Liaison), Peg Kirkpatrick.

NOTES:

1. Hope Jones called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.
2. Liz Hibino initiated the roll call and introductions.
3. **Approve Agenda:** There was a motion by Nancy Goodwin, seconded by Liz Hibino to approve the meeting agenda. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
4. **Correspondence/Public Comment:** None at this time.
5. **Approve Meeting Minutes: September 13, 2022 and January 13, 2023.** Liz Hibino asked to make a correction to the January 13th minutes: to remove the words "results or" from section 4a in order to reflect that a summary of the survey results can be shared with the public, as opposed to the entire document with raw data, in order to preserve confidentiality. There was a motion made by Hope Jones, seconded by Liz Hibino, to approve the September 13 and January 13 minutes with this change. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
6. **Resource Pamphlet corrections and additions:** Discussion around adding DMHAS and possibly local mental health agencies to the brochure. Changes that had been previously suggested were discussed. The consensus was to create a subcommittee to finalize these changes before next month's meeting. Nancy Goodwin, Hope Jones and PJ Eason volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. There was a motion made by Liz Hibino seconded by Hope Jones, to approve the changes discussed and create the subcommittee to finalize the work. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
7. **Events for 2023:**
 - 7a. *Juneteenth:* Liz shared that the Riverfront Park is already confirming reservations during the month of June and there is already a reservation for June 17. Andy at Parks & Rec wants to make sure if we want to reserve the park, we let him know soon so that he can hold a date for us. Members discussed that it's not ideal to hold the event on Sunday June 18th which is Father's Day. It's also

not ideal for the event to be held on Monday June 19th, because although Juneteenth is now a state and federal holiday, many still do not have the day off. It was discussed that the second choice after June 17 would be Saturday June 24th. If the 24th is not available, the subcommittee will look at other options including a different location. Shelly, Nancy and Liz volunteered to be on the Juneteenth subcommittee.

7b. PRIDE: PJ and Kristy volunteered to be on the Subcommittee and will report back to the Committee with a date and description of the event. Hope may also be able to help.

When formulating plans, the subcommittees for PRIDE and Juneteenth will approximate costs for the events so the Committee on Solidarity can propose to add finances for the events to the Board of Selectmen. We will vote on the proposal in March. The subcommittees will also discuss co-sponsorship and other event details.

Shelly additionally suggested having a small op-ed in the Rivereast at a future time.

7c. Collaboration with other town departments: Shelly offered to send an email to the directors of Youth & Family services, Library, Senior Services, the Historical Society, and other town committees to invite these groups to collaborate with us on future events or offer support to them. Liz can send it out from the Solidarity Committee email account. There was a motion made by Hope Jones, seconded by Liz Hibino to table the remainder of the discussion around future events to the next meeting. Vote unanimous; motion carried.

8. **Meeting venue and time:** Hope booked the Van Bynum room at Portland Library for the next 2 months. The room is only available until 8PM. The majority of members are available at 6:30PM. Two members know they will be unavailable on 3/14 for the next meeting. Hope will check with the Library and Waverly Center to find out if we can move our next meeting to 3/21 at 6:30PM. There was a motion by Nancy Goodwin, seconded by Glenn Eason to move the March meeting to 3/21 at 6:30 (if a room is available) and the April meeting to 4/11 at 6:30. Vote unanimous; motion carried. As soon as updated meeting dates/times are confirmed, information will be sent to Town Hall to update the website.
9. **Hybrid option for Solidarity meetings shared with the public:** Discussion around pros and cons to hybrid meetings. It was understood that as long as there is an in-person option, there is no problem with having a Zoom component. Hybrid meetings are preferable to the Committee in order to be more inclusive and accessible. There was a motion by Kristy Fuller, seconded by Hope Jones to make all future meetings hybrid. Vote unanimous; motion carried.
10. **Task Force and Solidarity Committee Survey Action:** The survey summary was shared on the screen. There was discussion around making sure the summary is accessible to the community and Liz Hibino will send the summary to Peg Kirkpatrick who requested to view it. There was a motion by Kristy Fuller,

seconded by Liz Hibino for all members to review the summary over the next month and discuss it at the next Committee meeting. Vote unanimous; motion carried.

11. **Review Feb 13th Library event for Black History Month:** Because the documentary viewed, *Who We Are - A Chronicle of Racism in America*, was two hours long, the library and participants made the decision to have the discussion on a different date. The date set is Monday February 27th at 6PM. Hope encouraged Committee members to attend.
12. **Open Discussion:** None.
13. **Public Comment:** None.
14. **Adjourn Meeting:** There was a motion by Kristy Fuller, seconded by Hope Jones to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm. Vote unanimous; motion carried.

Notes respectfully submitted by Liz Hibino.