

COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

Tuesday October 10th, 2023

7:00 PM

Senior Center & Zoom B

Members Present: Glenn "PJ" Eason, Hope Jones, Liz Hibino, Nancy Goodwin

Members Absent: Erin Livensparger, Tina Prakash, Kristy Fuller, Shelly Nolan

Members of the Public Present: Jennifer Billingsley

1. **Liz Hibino called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.**
2. **Liz Hibino led the roll call**
3. **Approve Agenda:** Liz motioned to approve agenda with addition of "Next Meeting Date Change" to current agenda after agenda item number 11. Seconded by Hope Jones and voted unanimously.
4. **Correspondence / Public Comment:** Jennifer Billingsley shared that there will be an upcoming event at Portland Library, discussed below in Agenda item #9
5. **Approve Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2023** Nancy motioned to approve minutes with correction of "principle to principal", Seconded by Liz and voted unanimously.
6. **Donations and Budget Update: Follow up from Town:** Budget allotment of \$1000 will be yearly and can be used for anything and not just Juneteenth. Funds will not be available until May. Donations made to the Solidarity Committee for a specific cause are made to the town and the committee will be responsible for making sure it goes to that cause. Town can provide a contribution letter or receipt if requested. Liz shared a "positive yard signs fundraiser" as a possible spring fundraising idea. Liz will get a quote from Minute Man and check with the town to ensure it is allowed.
7. **Report/Discussion: Resources Brochure:** Ana will translate brochure. PJ will try to check for old spanish brochures and check with past members. Liz shared the digital brochure with the school district and Superintendent and offered to bring physical copies to schools that are interested.
8. **Report on PRIDE:** Subcommittee meeting will be held at 11am on 10/14 at the Portland Library. Subcommittee will brainstorm ideas on a path forward for PRIDE in Portland.
9. **Report/discussion: Juneteenth and Book Discussion Event :** Reviewed book discussion survey. Overall feedback was positive and most complaints were due to logistics. No mic for speakers and audience, making it difficult for some attendees to hear. Group size was too big. Will work on smaller groups for future events. Library is planning a Youth Book Discussion for Difficult Conversations for a Black Boy. Future idea to have COS work with the Library to have an intergenerational discussion on the books.
10. **Report/Discussion: Outreach to community & Survey Actions** PJ will reach out to school GSA regarding the PRIDE subcommittee and to see how we can work with them. Nancy will email Rivereast about notifying the public of future COS meetings. Nancy will also reach out to the Historical Society about working on future projects together.
11. **Review Sign-ups for reporting at Board of Selectmen meeting:** October Liz,

November & December-PJ

12. **Change November Meeting Date:** Meeting Date for November changed to 11/21 7pm at Waverly Senior Center. Motioned by Liz Seconded by Nancy.
13. **Open Discussion:** Liz discussed Taste of Middletown happening on 10/12 at Wadsworth Mansion in honor of Quentin Soldier Williams. Tickets available at theconnectioninc.org
Black History event by Portland Historical Society on 10/22
14. **Public Comment: None**
15. **Adjourn Meeting:** Liz motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:20pm, seconded by Nancy Goodwin. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn "PJ" Eason