

CORE Commission Meeting
Sept 21, 2022 – Meeting held via Zoom

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 SEP 27 AM 10:31

Maile Furman
TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Shawn Pelletier, Judith Barnes, Nancy Nelson, Jeffrey Koonankeil, Vice Chair Amy Domeika

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jah-Marley Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectman liaison Denise Turner

1. Call to Order

Shawn Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:31pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Judith Barnes

3. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from August 17 were not attached in the meeting materials and therefore were not approved.

4. ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - none

5. Citizens Comment –

Lisa Johnson from 264 Carli Blvd said she couldn't access the recording from the August 17 mtg. and she is disappointed that CORE did not issue a statement about the RuPaul book situation, the FS actions, and not supporting the community.

6. Old Business

a) Investigate student representatives be part of CORE membership - Amy has not investigated, she believes we need to figure out what we are doing before bringing on student liaisons.

7. New Business

a) CORE Donations. Shawn Pelletier gave an update on the donations that were handed over to the FS and the Finance Director at the Town Hall. A donation policy is needed, Nancy Nelson and Amy Domeika will work on this activity.

b) Update from Hebron CoDE. Shawn Pelletier spoke with Donna Jolly, the Chair of CoDE who provided an update and materials on the activities of CoDE. The Chair and Vice Chair of CoDE will be joining the Nov 16, 2022 meeting. CORE would like to hear about the following topics:

- i. Projects they have worked on
- ii. How did they identify speakers and get them to work with CoDE
- iii. Provide some insight to CoDE's position and reaction to community events that happened in Hebron, including the confederate flag at the Hebron Harvest Fair.
- iv. How did they go about getting grants

c) Reviewed list of holidays from Sept – Dec 2022 to identify what holidays CORE should recognize and celebrate. CORE discussed ways to celebrate and it was agreed to select 2-3 holidays per month and provide a write up for each holiday. This information can be posted to the Town website and on

local bulletin boards to increase overall awareness to holidays that may not be well known, or the background not well understood.

- d) Amy Domeika brought up the fact that the Historical Society issues calendars every year and sells them to local businesses. CORE doesn't want to encroach on their efforts so it was decided that CORE will not make any more 2023 calendars. CORE will sell the 9 calendars we have.
- e) Discussed the work of Everyday Democracy (ED), specifically their expertise in working with hundreds of communities over the past 25 years by helping communities go through a process called "Dialogue to Change". They facilitate conversations to help residents build trust through open, civil and honest discussions. Shawn Pelletier shared that she planted the seed for this idea with the FS who seemed receptive to it. Jeff Koonankeil shared that a few red flags went up for him because there was mention of structural racism and racial equity in their materials.

ED agreed to host an orientation call for up to 15 people at no charge so we can better understand their work. CORE members agreed to meet before the October meeting to specifically discuss topics and get clear on what it can look like (ED and CORE) before engaging the public. Once we are ready to engage the public in community conversations, we will look to host events at the Library, Federated Church, or local schools.

The topic of Colchester's Scarecrow Contest came up in discussion and there was interest in participating this year. Judy made a motion for CORE to participate.

Motion by: J. Barnes Second by S. Pelletier Vote: Unanimous to approve

8. Set Priorities for Next Month

- 1) Shawn to send out the list of holidays that were identified, and writeups will be provided for posting to the Town website.
- 2) Shawn to schedule a Special meeting to discuss Everyday Democracy
- 3) Shawn, Judy and Nancy will work on the CORE Scarecrow display for October
- 4) Amy & Nancy will develop a donation policy

9. Chair Closing Comments

Chair Pelletier closed the meeting with a quote *"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about"* by Margaret J. Wheatly

10. Adjournment

Shawn Pelletier adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.