



# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

CORE COMMISSION AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2023  
6:00 PM on ZOOM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88055549191?pwd=RHpJb0E9Ha1pMRjl1aFpVUIVKZm9SZz09>

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(ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ACTION)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2023
4. Additions or Deletions to the agenda
5. Old Business
  - Update on CORE Donation policy – (Denise / Shawn)
6. New Business
  - One vacancy on the commission
  - Holiday writeups (two in August)

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- Update from Subcommittee
  - Community conversations (Nancy)
- Farmers Market August 6
  - Ideas for a theme?
- 325<sup>th</sup> Colchester Birthday Celebration
  - \$100.00 donation made to Parks & Rec
  - Ideas on what we can do on 9/9

7. Citizen’s Comments

8. Adjournment

CORE Donations:

Date	Amount	Purpose	Notes
8/30/22 (Date when money was given to the Colchester town)	\$110.00	Donations from residents who visited the Juneteenth table (6/19/22) and PRIDE Month table (6/26/22) on the town green.	Money was given to the former Finance Director, Debbie Kratochvil during a meeting on 8/30/22 in the First Selectman’s office. Shawn Pelletier, Debbie Kratochvil, and Andreas Bisbikos were present in the meeting. Shawn was told the money would be tracked along with other funds. She got the impression it was going to be tracked in Excel, in a separate worksheet for CORE. Debbie also mentioned putting it under Misc tab. Shawn never received confirmation on how the money would be tracked. Debbie told her that CORE needed to have a Donation Policy. An initial policy was drafted in October 2022, then it was updated with more detail in Nov/Dec timeframe.
TBD (need to finalize donation policy)	\$50.00	2023 CORE Calendars	The original goal was to sell ten 2023 Calendars at Celebrate Colchester on 9/17/22. No CORE members were available for that date, so Tiffany Quinn agreed to let the calendars be sold at the Parks & Rec table. Unfortunately, the calendars didn’t arrive in time for the 9/17 event. All 10 calendars were sold afterward. In December 2022, Debbie Kratochvil would not accept the \$50.00 until CORE had a final Donation policy in place.
TBD (need to finalize donation policy)	\$147.50	Donations from residents who visited the PRIDE Month table at 43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Tag Sale on 6/11/23 & the Juneteenth table on 6/18/23. Both events held on the town green.	The Chair of the Commission will hold the money until the following are in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An approved Donation policy is in place.</li> <li>- A clear understanding of how the Finance Dept is tracking the money.</li> <li>- A process for withdrawing money from the town when needed.</li> </ul>

CORE Commission  
June 21, 2023 – Meeting at the RecPlex Pavillion

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Shawn Pelletier, Judith Barnes, Jillian Vinci (via phone), Jeffrey Koonankeil, Nancy Nelson and Sally Whipple

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Amy Domeika and Jah-Marley Wright - Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectman Liaison Denise Turner

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Shawn Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:07pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** led by J. Barnes

**3. Approval of Minutes**

May 17, 2023 Meeting: Motion to approve: S. Pelletier Second by: J. Barnes

Vote: Unanimous to approve

**4. Additions or Deletions to the agenda** – None

**5. Guest Speakers** – Colchester Resident Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash, School Resource Officer Cpl Craig Sheele with dog Skipper and Community Trust Liaison Trooper Sebastian Nesci.

All three officers briefly explained their roles and how they serve the community. Though they have different roles and responsibilities, they went through the same CT State Police training. Each stressed the importance of police accountability and community policing. The Community Trust Liaison serves 13 towns. Integrating Skipper into the Schools has been positive and helps build student trust. Cpl Sheele shared a list of required training classes which includes Implicit Bias, Bigotry, Cultural Awareness, and Human Relations among other topics. The CT State Police training included these items before the murder of George Floyd. In the aftermath of that murder, the current CT State Police training curriculum didn't change. The Diversity ratio of Troop K employees has increased over the past few years by hiring more diverse, qualified candidates.

**6. Citizens Comments** - none

**7. OLD Business**

Update on CORE Donation Policy – D. Turner spoke to Mary Williamson, who in turn called S. Pelletier who explained how the money was generated from last summer. S. Pelletier gave context, the history, and clarified what was needed from the town. We are waiting from follow up from Mary Williamson.

**8. New Business**

- J. Vinci completed the CORE Facebook site and said we have 110 followers in a week! She has uploaded a lot of information, plus has made regular posts to keep the site active and engaging with the public.
- N. Nelson gave an update on the Community conversations: N. Nelson has met with various people in town and everyone has been receptive and likes the idea of a community conversation. Dan Sullivan, the School Superintendent, requested that CORE develop a Civility

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Agreement as part of the Community Conversations. N. Nelson and S. Pelletier have drafted one to work with. A draft will be circulated for review and comment among CORE members.

- S. Pelletier gave an update that both PRIDE Month and Juneteenth events were successful. They received a lot of support from residents and non-residents. Many residents thanked CORE for being present on the town green and representing a positive change in the town.
- CORE members agreed to host another table at the Farmers Market in July & August to keep the momentum up. Motion to approve by J. Barnes Second by N. Nelson  
Vote: Unanimous to approve.
- REMINDER: PRIDE Month discussion at the Senior Center, 5:30PM on June 29<sup>th</sup> at
- CORE members agreed to financially support the 325<sup>th</sup> Colchester Birthday Celebration with a \$100.00 donation. The donation will allow the CORE Commission to be included in the 325<sup>th</sup> Booklet that will accompany a month-long celebration starting 9/9 through 10/15. A motion was approved for each member to donate \$15.00. Motion to approve by N. Nelson Second by J. Barnes  
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. **Adjournment** - Chair Pelletier adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

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## CORE Commission 2023 Holiday Educational Write-Ups

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Jillian	World Autism Day	April 2	Y
Jillian	The Hajj	June 26	N
Sally	Americans with Disabilities Act	July 26	
Jeff	The Feast of the Assumption	August 15	
Shawn	Women's Equality Day	August 26	
Nancy	Arbaeen Islam	Sept 6	
Judy			

### 2024

Sally	Fredick Douglass's birthday	Feb 14, 2024	
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