

CORE Commission  
March 15, 2023 – Meeting via Zoom

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2023 MAR 23 AM 11:53  
Gayle Furman  
TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Shawn Pelletier, Vice Chair Nancy Nelson, Amy Domeika, Judith Barnes, Jillian Vinci and Sally Whipple

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jeffrey Koonankeil; 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 6:31pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** led by S. Pelletier

**3. Approval of Minutes**

February 8, 2023 Meeting: Motion to approve - N. Nelson Second by: J. Barnes

Vote: Unanimous to approve

**4. Old Business**

Update on DORE Donation Policy – Denise did not have a chance to follow up for the March meeting. There is a new Finance Director, and she will check with that person.

**5. New Business**

- Update CORE by-Laws. Motion to have annual elections of officers and document it in the bylaws. Persons serving in a specific role (ex. Chair) will serve no more than 2 consecutive years. Motion to approve – J. Barnes Second by – N. Nelson Vote: Unanimous to approve
- 2023 Holiday / Celebration Educational list  
4 out of 7 members have selected holidays / celebrations to acknowledge and develop an educational flyer for the community. Shawn to create a calendar to track. Members will use the guidelines that were approved at the Feb 8, 2023 meeting when developing the flyers.
- CORE Facebook site  
Jillian to develop a framework for the CORE FB site. Denise to check if we can have a FB site.
- 2023 Goals  
Nancy – Host small community conversations with specific groups, like a focus group discussion to find out what is going on in town. Ex. – Religious leaders; Youth groups, etc. The results of those meetings may be able to be used to host broader discussions with a larger community audience. A subcommittee was formed to work on this: Nancy, Amy, Judy, and Sally  
Motion to approve the subcommittee to develop community conversations.  
Motion to approve: J. Barnes Second by J.Vinci. Vote: Unanimous

Judy – Empowering Tomorrow Foundation, the mission is: *To equip the community youth with healthy relationship tools for a brighter future.* They work with private and public schools, runaways, homeless youth, and other vulnerable youth populations. Topics include: Address

Bullying, Encourage family togetherness, Building self-confidence, etc. Perhaps Rebecca Crane can attend a community conversation with religious leaders or Youth focus group.  
Rebecca.CRNA.etfct.org

- Guest Speakers at future CORE meetings
  - 1- Resident Sergeant Zachary Cash from Troop K, the dog must attend! S. Pelletier to see if Sgt. Cash can join us for a discussion on implicit bias training, etc.
  - 2- Tiffany Quin from Parks & Rec – Hear about her Inclusion award in 2022.
  - 3- Russel Melmed from Chatham Health, follow up on the Colchester Health Equity Report from the initial discussion held in August 2022.Motion to bring in Tiffany Quinn in May and Russ Melmed at a future meeting.  
Motion by: S. Pelletier Second by N. Nelson Vote: Unanimous to approve
- Plan Juneteenth and PRIDE Month celebrations. Perhaps create a Juneteenth video series on the CORE FB page. Two subcommittees were formed:
  - For Juneteenth subcommittee– Jillian, Shawn, Sally
  - For PRIDE month subcommittee – Amy, Nancy, ShawnMotion for the subcommittees to start organizing the events in June.  
Motion by: N. Nelson Second by J. Vinci Vote: Unanimous to approve

#### 6. Citizens Comments –

Joanne Rose, Reservoir Rd., suggested using a community survey as a tool to find out which areas to focus on; make a plan for the year which celebrations CORE will focus on; review as a commission any writeup before it is made public; not clear on the focus on community conversations including have guest speakers attend CORE; and include senior citizens in the focus of CORE.

Krista Kardy, Lea Farm Rd., is concerned about the narrow focus of the Empowering Tomorrow Foundation (ETF); it's fine to have ETF attend a CORE meeting; encourage CORE members to be bold and pointed with questions about the LGBTQIA community to ensure ETF is inclusive; for community conversations – be willing to be uncomfortable.

Linda Pasternack, Colchester resident, supportive of community conversations, suggested we work contact Val Gaeto from town social services as she has a wealth of information; Linda will share the survey from the Commission of the Aging.

**7. Chair closing comments:** "Women should be celebrated every day, but a month dedicated to female empowerment is extremely special. It doesn't just honor the iconic women who have changed history but encourages new generations to dream big and know that anything is possible." — Molly McCook

**8. Adjournment** - Chair Pelletier adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.