

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

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 JUN 26 AM 9:51
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

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 29th at
- CORE members agreed to financially support the 325th Colchester Birthday Celebration with a \$100.00 donation. The donation will allow the CORE Commission to be included in the 325th 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.