

CORE Commission Meeting
August 17, 2022 – Meeting held via Zoom

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COLCHESTER, CT
2022 AUG 19 AM 10:21
Gayle Furman
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TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Shawn Pelletier, Judith Barnes, Nancy Nelson, Jeffrey Koonan

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jah-Marley Wright, Vice Chair Amy Domeika,

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectman liaison Denise Turner

1. Call to Order

Chair Shawn Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:32pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by J. Barnes

3. Approval of Minutes

July 11, 2022 Motion by: N. Nelson to approve Second by: J. Barnes Vote: Unanimous to approve

July 20, 2022 Motion by: J. Koonan to approve Second by: J. Barnes Vote: Unanimous to approve

4. ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - none

5. Citizens Comment

Russ Melmed from 219 Carli provided background information to the 2021 Health Equity Report that was provided. The data is aggregated from a State and County level, and some data is specific to Colchester. The report provides an overview of the information that was available at the time regarding Demographics, Housing, Education, etc.

Katherine Paquette from 41 Mill Lane West finds the 2021 Health Equity Report lacking in data about the LGBTQIA community, non-white Colchester residents, employment & unemployment rates, and mental health. Would like CORE to address the conduct of the FS and the RuPaul situation, and obtain more information about the LGBTQIA community.

6. Old Business (letters corrected as the agenda had two "d" letters)

a) Investigate student representatives be part of CORE membership - No update given as Amy was absent.

b) CORE statement regarding 6/27 RuPaul book situation. Chair Pelletier said her job is to move the commission forward and made a motion to discontinue the effort to develop a CORE statement. Motion by: S. Pelletier Second by J. Barnes Vote: Unanimous to approve

c) Collaborate with other DEI boards in surrounding towns (ex. Hebron CODE). Member Nelson has been playing phone tag with Donna from Hebron CODE. Chair Pelletier said she will work with Nancy to contact Hebron.

d) Calendar of Holidays/Celebrations (Sept-Dec). Chair Pelletier asked for a volunteer to pull together a list for review at the next meeting, Nancy volunteered.

e) Health Equity Report from Russell Melmed. Interesting report that provides a good overview on how Colchester compares to other towns in the county. The Commission will investigate the data more thoroughly at a later date to see what data will be useful for our work.

f) CORE donations. Chair Pelletier has a meeting with FS and Director of Finance on August 30 to set up a proper account.

No votes necessary for Items 6a, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f

7. New Business

a) Work with an organization called Everyday Democracy. Everyday Democracy has worked with hundreds of communities over the past 30 years helping to turn conversation into action, and action into positive change. They help communities go through a process called “Dialogue to Change” by bringing diverse people together to build trust through open and honest discussions. When Chair S. Pelletier meets with the FS and Deb K. to set up a financial account for CORE, she will plant the seed for this idea.

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

b). Host community training on “Changing Demographics in the US”. Chair Pelletier shared an example of recent data on the % of American’s who self-identify as LGBTQIA by generation. Sharing this information will help to educate the community. The idea is to share current information on a specific topic, not to engage in opinions or debate. CORE will make a presentation on a topic of interest to the community sometime this Fall. Specific details on this idea will be discussed at a future meeting.

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

8. Set Priorities for Next Month

- 1) Shawn & Nancy to follow up with Hebron CODE
- 2) Shawn to get obtain more information about Everyday Democracy
- 3) Nancy to create a list of holidays / celebrations (Sept – Dec)
- 4) All members to take a deeper look at the Health Equity Report

9. Chair Closing Comments

Chair Pelletier closed the meeting with a quote *“We are not here to be right, we are here to get it right”*.
Author unknown.

10. Adjournment

Chair Pelletier adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.