



Clinton Human Rights Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 7:00 pm

- **Call to Order** - Meeting began at 7:05 pm
- **Roll Call:**

Amanda Corcoran - Present	David Melillo, <i>ex officio member</i> - Present
Ava Crayton, <i>Vice Chair</i> - Present	Josue Rodriguez, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Present
Laurie Jaffe, <i>Secretary</i> - Present	Leah Scoppa, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Present
Natalie Jones - Absent	Tom Shultz, <i>Chair</i> - Present
Abby Roccapriore - Present	
- **Guests** – None
- **Approval of February and March Minutes**

Abby made a motion to approve the minutes.
Ava seconded.
Meeting minutes approved.
- **Correspondence** – None
- **Remembrance of Brendan Saunders**

Several committee members spoke about Brendan. Tom said Brendan was a friendly man who served his community well. Ava noted he was a kind and considerate man and that she enjoyed her interactions with him at our meetings. Abby noted she knew him from town and that he will be missed. Tom noted that the service for Brendan is on Saturday and mentioned the ways to contribute to his family.
- **Center for Police Equity Clinton Police Evaluation and decal display issue** – Tom
Tom said the Center is still working on its report and he expects the Center will present its findings to the Town after the report is completed. Tom further noted that he met with the Police Chief about the blue line flag decals. The Chief told him he is planning to replace those decals with new ones from an organization that accredits police departments.

- **Clinton Community Conversations on Suicide** – David
 David reported that a Community Conversation was held last night, with 40+ people in attendance. Participants discussed and prioritized issues. The number one issue is improving communication with young men post high school. Other high-priority issues are social media and screen time, and development of a good mental health curriculum. David said that Launch Pad, a new program, will hopefully provide guidance to young adults. Abby noted that many teenagers attended the Conversation. Abby, along with Abel and Leah, noted that people want better communication between school staff and students.
- **Relationship with Clinton Public Schools** – Tom
 Tom reported that he met with the Morgan Social Justice Club to help them develop their identity and got some good ideas from the students. Abby noted that efforts toward greater inclusivity are being made at Eliot.
- **Morgan School news** – Abel, Leah
 Leah reported on the Social Justice Club’s continuing effort to expand membership, especially because seniors will be graduating. Abel mentioned the planned project to put up flags representing the home countries of Morgan students.
- **Outdoor Chautauqua summer program at the library** – Tom and Laurie
 Tom reported that the four topics for the program are Aging, Antisemitism, the Witness Stones Project, and Bullying. Speakers have been selected for three of the four programs and Tom is working on the fourth (Antisemitism). Also, most of the musicians and poets/storytellers have been chosen; Tom is working on finding several others.
- **Social Media** – Tom
 Tom is continuing his efforts to post on social media.
- **Health Equity ideas/communications** – Amanda
 Amanda reported that she reached out to someone at Health Equity Solutions in Hartford and will continue that dialogue.
- **Podcast/video storytelling presence** – Tom
 Tom noted that Brendan’s work on projects has given the committee a start for future ideas.
- **Messaging – Brainstorm ideas for catchy slogan on yard signs, stickers** -Tom, David, Natalie
 Tom reported that he, David, and Natalie met this week. They found out that the committee can use the Town’s electronic message board in front of the Annex. The goal is to change the message each month. Also, Tom wants to obtain a grant to fund the cost of printing signs to display in town.

- **Afghan Refugee Resettlement with IRIS - Ava**
Ava reported nothing is new and noted she doesn't see a need to continue trying to reach out to her contact. Tom will talk to Chris George about any possible future outreach.
- **Statement on Equity update – Ava, Tom**
Tom reported he and Ava are continuing to review the statement. Town Council Member Carrie Allen is also reviewing it.
- **Ongoing discussion of targets and goals – All**
No new discussion.
- **New Business**
Tom noted the discussion at the last meeting about holding a Pride event in June. He suggested doing this at the Town's First Thursday event, which is on June 1. Amanda and Abby will work on planning this event. Also, Tom and David reported they just completed a set of Indaba workshops, which they found to be very worthwhile.
- **Adjournment**
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by Abby and seconded by Ava.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm