



## Clinton Human Rights Committee

### Special Meeting

Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 7:00 pm

- **Call to Order** - Meeting began at 7:06 pm
- **Roll Call:**

Amanda Corcoran - Absent	David Melillo, <i>ex officio member</i> - Present
Ava Crayton, <i>Vice Chair</i> - Present	Josue Rodriquez, <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 - Absent	
- **Guests** – Daniel Highkin (Morgan High School student)
- **Approval of April and May Minutes** – Ava made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded.  
Minutes of both meetings approved.
- **Correspondence** – Tom reported that he had received a text from Steve Bertini, who asked what the CHRC could do about vaccination requirements in the public schools. Tom responded with a suggestion to contact the state agency that handles that matter.
- **Remembrance of Brendan Saunders** – Ava and Tom  
Ava suggested that the CHRC plant a tree in remembrance of Brendan. Tom thought this would be a nice thing to do. He has explored the cost of doing so and said it would be between \$350-\$500. Laurie noted that although Brendan was a highly valued Committee member, she believes that the planting of a tree is for a person who has made an outstanding contribution to a group or a cause. She suggested alternatively that the CHRC might consider making a modest donation in Brendan’s memory to a human rights group. The CHRC will explore this matter further.

- **Center for Police Equity Clinton Police Evaluation - Tom**  
Tom reported that the Center will present its assessment at Town Hall (in-person and virtual) on June 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm, and will also hold a Community Roundtable on June 8, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the library. He will attend virtually since he will be out of town and encouraged other members to attend as well. A few members indicated they will attend.
- **Clinton Community Conversation on Suicide – David**  
David reported that the fourth Community Conversation took place. The Conversations will be on hiatus during the summer. As the Conversations continue, the next focus will be on expanding the steering committee.
- **Relationship with Clinton Public Schools – Tom**  
Tom reported that he presented six ideas for the logo to the Morgan Social Justice Club and the group chose one of them. Everyone was very pleased with the design. Abel and Leah thanked Tom for all his work on the logo.
- **Morgan School news – Abel, Leah**  
Leah reported on the planned project to hang flags representing the home countries of Morgan students. The school principal had a concern that hanging the flags in the location suggested by the students might violate fire safety codes. She suggested a few alternatives, such as displaying smaller flags in a case, or hanging flags in the courtyard.
- **Outdoor Chautauqua summer program at the library – Tom and Laurie**  
Tom reported that the four main speakers have been lined up and that he is still working on finding musicians. Cathy Weiss will only be involved with one of the programs due to her other commitments. For the other three programs, Tom is considering having a student poet present her or his work, or having students read a published poem.
- **Social Media – Tom**  
No discussion.
- **Health Equity ideas/communications – Amanda**  
No discussion.
- **Podcast/video storytelling presence – Tom**  
No discussion.

- **Messaging – Brainstorm ideas for catchy slogan on yard signs, stickers** -Tom, David, Natalie  
No discussion.
- **Afghan Refugee Resettlement with IRIS** - Ava  
No discussion.
- **Statement on Equity update** – Ava, Tom  
Tom stated he hopes to get Town Council approval next month.
- **Ongoing discussion of targets and goals** – All  
No discussion.
- **New Business**  
CHRC Gay Pride Month table at First Thursday – Amanda, Abby, Tom. Tom noted that Amanda and Abby will be at the table at First Thursday this week.

Tom noted that Laurie King was appointed, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, to fill Brendan’s seat on the Committee. Tom also noted that all members’ seats except his and Laurie J.’s expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, so they need to be reappointed to new terms.

Tom thanked Abel (who is graduating from Morgan) for his very valuable contribution to the CHRC and told him that he will be sending him a certificate of appreciation. Other Committee members also expressed thanks to Abel.

- **Adjournment**  
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion was made by Ava and seconded by Tom. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.