



Clinton Human Rights Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 7:00 pm

- **Call to Order** - Meeting began at 7:03 pm
- **Roll Call:**

Amanda Corcoran - Present	David Melillo, <i>ex officio member</i> - Present
Ava Crayton, <i>Vice Chair</i> - Absent	Josue Rodriguez, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Absent
Laurie Jaffe, <i>Secretary</i> - Present	Leah Scoppa, <i>Student Advisor</i> - Absent
Natalie Jones - Present	Tom Shultz, <i>Chair</i> - Present
Abby Roccapriore - Present	Laurie King - Absent
- **Guests** – None
- **Approval of May Special Meeting Minutes** – Abby made a motion to approve the minutes. Natalie seconded. Minutes approved.
- **Correspondence** – Tom reported that he received a letter from the Morgan Social Justice Club thanking him for all his work for the club.
- **Center for Police Equity Clinton Police Evaluation** - Tom
Several members reported that they attended the Town Hall (in-person and virtual) session held on June 7, 2023, at which the Center presented its findings. Abby noted the Police Chief seemed to emphasize that many of the problematic encounters with police occur at the mall. Laurie was disappointed that 100% of the police force is White and discussion was held about the Chief's effort to build a more diverse force. Tom noted he believes the Chief is well intentioned and very committed to having a police force that respects all members of the community.
- **Clinton Community Conversation on Suicide** – David
No discussion.
- **Relationship with Clinton Public Schools** – Tom
Tom reported he has finished his work for the Morgan Social Justice Club and noted that Morgan Principal Keri Hagness thanked him for all his work.

- **Morgan School news** – Abel, Leah
Abby reported that Morgan student Daniel Highkin (who attended last month’s CHRC meeting) might be interested in joining the committee as a student member. Tom discussed the process for filling the student seat that has been held by Abel. He will interview interested students after school starts in August. Abby will work with Tom in the interview process.
- **Outdoor Chautauqua summer program at the library** – Tom and Laurie
Tom reported that the speakers and musical guests have all been lined up. He is still working on finding several storytellers and/or poem readers. Laurie said she plans to help with set-up and clean-up at every program except the second one, and asked committee members to consider helping, and to attend the programs to increase the committee’s visibility in the community. Abby said she will attend the second program. David, who is the presenter at the fourth program, will help set up that night as well. Amanda said she will attend the July 19th program.
- **Social Media** – Tom
Tom reported that the anti-vaxxer discussed at last month’s meeting is now blocked on Facebook.
- **Health Equity ideas/communications** – Amanda
Amanda and Abby discussed the Gay Pride Month table they set up at First Thursday earlier this month. They noted they had various handouts at the table and a number of people stopped by to talk. Laurie thanked Amanda and Abby for their work on this project. It was suggested that the committee might set up a similar table at the International Human Rights Day program at Morgan in the fall. Also, Amanda and Tom attended a screening of “Saturday Church,” a film about a boy’s struggle with questions about his gender identity. The film was presented at “Pride Movie Night & Discussion” at the library.
- **Podcast/video storytelling presence** – Tom
No discussion.
- **Messaging – Brainstorm ideas for catchy slogan on yard signs, stickers** -Tom, David, Natalie
Tom, Natalie and David have come up with 12 messages to display on Town’s electronic message board.

- **Statement on Equity update** – Tom
Tom reported he is working with Brett Martin on the statement.
- **CHRC Gay Pride Month Table at First Thursday** – Amanda, Abby, Tom
See discussion under “Health Equity ideas/communications” above.
- **Ongoing discussion of targets and goals** – All
No discussion.
- **New Business**
Committee members thanked David for his very valuable contribution to the CHRC and for the work he has done for the community.
- **Adjournment**
Tom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Abby.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.