

Minutes
Hardwick Equity Committee Regular Meeting
1st Mondays - Memorial Building
May 1st, 2023, 6PM

Members Present: Ceilidh Galloway-Kane - Chair, Lucian Avery - Vice Chair and Secretary, Bradford Smith, David O'Brien - Treasurer

Members Absent: Chip Troiano

Guests: Bill Chidsey

Called to order: 6:02

Adjustments to the agenda

None

Approve Minutes

David moved to accept April regular meeting minutes as written. Ceilidh seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment

Bill gave us a handout from the Better Buildings By Design conference from an equity presentation that he went to recently. Ceilidh will scan it for our resources folder. He will share a link with us to the presentation when it is available.

Terms and members to put forward to Select Board (Ceilidh)

Ceilidh will present members for approval at the next Select Board meeting. Also said that we should talk more about term lengths at our next retreat. Currently everyone is one year but it might be better to have longer, staggered terms. Lucian will look into putting our meetings on the town calendar - will talk to Amanda.

Bill suggested that we could ask to put the Juneteenth presentation on the town home page. Ceilidh will also give Amanda verbiage for this - she is already doing this fr Front Porch Forum. But see later in the minutes about this.

Lucian nominated Ceilidh for Chair. David seconded. All in favor. - Ceilidh abstained
Brad nominated Lucian for Vice Chair, David seconded. All in favor - Lucian abstained.
Brad nominated David for Treasurer. Lucian seconded, All in favor - David abstained.
Brad nominated Lucian for Secretary, David seconded. All in favor - Lucian abstained.

6:20 - Panel Update (all)

Ceilidh heard from Bella at the Peace and Justice Center and two of the three panelists of color are no longer comfortable doing the presentation in person. She said this did not have to do with Hardwick in particular but doing presentations in rural Vermont in general. Bella offered to do a community conversation with white presenters only or go virtual.

Consensus was that we don't want to do virtual because we don't think people will attend. David mentioned that May 16th is very close so we should probably cancel the evening session and re-envision. Consensus is to still do the town employee training during the day. Ceilidh will reach out to Bella to let her know this and to ask about the options. Ceilidh will also talk to Harmony's kitchen to let her know this and also to see if there is a way to make a future event work without a deposit. The town has a policy disallowing deposits for services.

We planed to do a follow-up zoom at 6 on Friday do discuss the presentation further.

OSSU partnership update (David B)

David B. was not present

Listening Session discussion (Brad)

Brad talked about the Food For All Program as a posable way to improve food equity. Maybe the committee could initiate a conversation with the Co-op's board about this. This is basically a discount for low income folks. Brad will draft a letter about this. We will all self study about the current discount rates and Food For All.

Brad has been talking about the next listening session being about health care equity with the Health Center. They requested the date be put off some for planning. Brad is suggesting June 4th and will confirm about this.

Book purchase/fund balance

This is up in the air because of the change in the panel discussion and how this may affect our expenditures. Brad suggested having a Juneteenth celebration. Ceilidh will put this in the agenda for Friday.

Old & New Business -

Ceilidh got an e-mail from United Way of Lamoille County. They are doing an equity assessment with Creative Discourse and have a listening session tomorrow (5/2), 5-6 PM by zoom.

Brad talked to Neighbors in Action from Cabot and they are interested in talking about food equity. Maybe they could join us at our next meeting.

Lucian asked and as far a Ceilidh knows no one has used the Assessment Tool - on the agenda for next meeting.

Next regular meeting:
Talk about grant writing
Talk about organizing a retreat
Assessment Tool

Adjourned: 7:39

Respectfully submitted,
Lucian Avery, Secretary