

Glover Equity Committee
MINUTES
18 October 2023

Present: Heidi Cooperstein, Betsy Day, Sara Gluckman, Jethro Hayman, Chair, Mariel Hess, Maria Hill, Vice Chair, Sylvia Manning, David Perrigo, Carmela Young, Darlene Young, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m. at Betsy Day's studio because of flood damage in the Town Hall.

Conference

The Office of Racial Equity will be holding a conference on October 26-27, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Spruce Peak in Stowe. The conference is open to anyone wishing to make Vermont more inclusive. The focus of the conference will be on building social movements. Jethro and Maria plan to attend and will bring back info to the committee.

Health Equity Survey

Jethro reported that he will have data from the health equity survey for our next meeting. Betsy and Heidi had distributed the print version of the survey to residents of the senior apartments in Glover Village. In their discussions with the residents they learned that the facility has no WiFi and that they miss the grocery delivery service that had been offered through the local supermarket during the pandemic. The service was discontinued due to a lack of volunteers. Heidi plans to bring that to the next meeting of Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO).

NEKO is a potential partner for our community garden.

Equitable and Inclusive Communities Grant

The deadline for the next round of Equitable and Inclusive Communities grants through the Vermont Community Foundation is this month. They are interested in how we'll be building on our previous work. Working with other local organizations such as the Rainbow Coalition, other town equity committees, and NEKO may be a way to achieve that goal. Jethro proposed two cultural events, perhaps around the Latina culture and another training through the King Center with a different focus. Jethro has been in contact with a woman from Puerto Rico who lives in Barton and is interested in collaborating on cultural programming.

Spanish Class

Sylvia apologized for not being able to teach Spanish this fall but Betsy offered to teach the class. Spanish classes are a step toward language equity. David is available to help in situations where his language skills would be useful.

Concerns of Members

Members spoke about the escalating Israeli/Palestinian Conflict and possible ways we could take action including participating in the peace vigil in Hardwick on Tuesday evening and hosting community conversations. Members reported on two programs through Migrant Justice: one that distributes food from Pete's Greens to migrant workers and one that provides transportation. Members spoke about elders and children in our community who need support. Members reported on the equity work of the Old Stone House Museum, including the educational program "Equal and Empowered" for children. Members reported on the good work of the Civic Standard in Hardwick and ways to involve young people.

LGBTQ Issues

We consider ways in which we can begin to address assaults on the LGBTQ community. A member proposed a book discussion group on topics related to LGBTQ issues. Learning how area schools currently handle related issues and what other organizations are doing will help us determine how we might stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

NEKO Retreat

NEKO will be holding a retreat at Betsy's on Saturday, October 21. The morning is open to all and the afternoon is a meeting of the executive council. Registration is through the website. The event will be catered. Should our committee become a member of NEKO?

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting: **Thursday, November 7, 2023 at 3 p.m. at the Glover Town Hall**

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Young, Secretary