

## **Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 5/28/24

**Committee Members Present:** Gene Kraus, Laura Perez, Rita Champion, Alvi Reed, Owen Daniel-McCarter & Jesse Plotsky

**Community Members Present:**

**Public Comment:** None

### **Discussion:**

Selectboard updates: notes from Christy were sent. Alvi will attend Wednesday's meeting.

Reflections on EIC retreat meeting. Great to meet in person and affirm the values we all share as a committee. It was great to meet in an extended meeting setting. We will consolidate the notes taken and shared and come up with who we are, our values, and what we are about.

A large takeaway was our move towards community conversations around community safety, equity, what does EIC mean to our community and what needs are needing to be met. Starting a subcommittee about how we actually want to do these community conversations along with the Bethel town meeting committee. potentially the EIC being the conversation guide. Casual initial meetings for September/ early fall.

Potentially a speaker to come to the next book club as a catalyst for this community dialog. August 20th net book club meeting.

Update on Laura and Jesse meeting with Windsor County Sheriff Ryan. Asked questions about training that they do for officers. Accountability procedures. what he sees as his roll in the community and how he envisions interacting with young people and black and brown people. What resources do they have on hand when a situation is presented and the officers might not have the tools to properly deal with like houseless members of the community or overdose use. We requested a trans training for the police department, as it is important for us how to interact with Trans community. Body cams are required to be on during any interaction with community. Asked about How officers are held accountable and any feedback or discipline about conduct. He was open to continuing the conversation about policing with the EIC and any future trainings we offer. No policies are in place in areas that he deemed important. There is a gap in ideals and policy implementation.

Action item in follow up with Sheriff Ryan is that we will bring training items and information to him. Owen would offer a trans training to windsor county police.

### **Juneteenth:**

a musical trio will be performing la lamusic. Wednesday June 19th. 5-8pm. There will be a bounce house. Build your own bouquet with Stitchdown Farm. Farmer James will have a barbeque. Games and offerings from Sharon academy. Dana Decker will bring tie dye items to sell/donate proceeds. Lawn signs with information about what Juneteenth is have yet to be printed but still on the agenda. Speakers Shirley Jefferson from VT law school. - history of the

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day and what it means to her. . Leon Dunkly from the Unitarian church in Woodstock is going to speak.

### **Updates:**

Declaration of Inclusion poster update. Can be posted at town offices, at the rec center. at community gathering spaces. We are moving forward with young folks in the community to create something together or potentially from the center from cartoon studies working along with youth to design the posters.

Bethel Pride Fest: - June 27-29. Many fun events!

Thursday 27th - 7-9pm Gay trivia

Friday 28th - 5:30-8pm film screening and discussion of the true story of Baynard Rustin

Saturday 29th -

- 12pm Family meeting at Parish House LGBTQ+ sobriety meeting
- 2:30-4pm bethel town hall Trans storytelling circle
- 7pm drag show at White Church hosted by emoji nightmare
- 10pm Dance party at White Church.

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Meeting Minutes



**THURSDAY, JUNE 27**  
**GAY TRIVIA** "ANYONE CAN PLAY BUT IT'S GONNA BE GAY"  
7:00PM-9:00PM **AT BABES BAR** 221 MAIN ST BETHEL, VT

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**  
**RUSTIN** FILM SCREENING, DINNER, AND DISCUSSION OF THE TRUE STORY OF BAYARD RUSTIN, AN OPENLY GAY MAN OF COLOR WHO HELPED ORGANIZE THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON.  
5:30PM-8:00PM **AT WHITE CHURCH** 129 CHURCH ST BETHEL, VT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29**  
**FAMILY MEETING** A CLOSED MEETING FOR PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+ AND ARE IN RECOVERY OR SEEKING SOBRIETY  
12:00PM **AT THE PARISH HOUSE** 48 MAIN ST BETHEL, VT

**TRANS STORYTELLING CIRCLE**  
A TIME FOR TRANS\* PEOPLE TO SHARE, AND FOR ALL OF US TO LISTEN  
2:30PM-4:00PM **AT BETHEL TOWN HALL** 318 MAIN ST BETHEL, VT

**DRAG SHOW** DOORS AT 7:00PM **HOSTED BY EMOJI NIGHTMARE**  
FOLLOWED BY  
**DANCE PARTY** 10:00PM  
**AT WHITE CHURCH** 129 CHURCH ST BETHEL, VT  
AGES 18+ TICKETS AT DOOR \$15-\$40, NO PRE-SALE TICKETS  
BAR BY BABES, ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PERFORMERS

**FOLLOW @BETHELPRIDEFEST**  
**BETHELPRIDEFEST@GMAIL.COM**  
POSTER DESIGN BY @OKAY.KAE.LYNCH

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### **Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:**

vote on budget for Juneteenth. - approved.

Owen will chair next EIC meeting.

### **Voting Record:** Unanimous (7/7)

(Note: need to indicate individual votes if a roll call is taken)

### **Next Meeting: 6/25/21 @ 6:00pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5820627640?pwd=TVNiSURhVm5ScTgweWl6OHdRbzZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 582 062 7640

**Passcode:** equity

Dial In: 1-646-558-8656

**Notes Taken By:** Owen Daniel-McCarter

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