

Glover Equity Committee
MINUTES
10 August 2023

Present: Heidi Cooperstein, Ann Creaven, Betsy Day, Bethany Dunbar, Noel Ford, Sara Gluckman, Jethro Hayman, Chair, Mariel Hess, Maria Hill, Vice Chair, Carmela Young, Darlene Young, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 3:17 p.m. at Maria Hill's home on Apple Lane because of flood damage in the Town Hall. We began with check-ins.

Training

Jethro recently became aware of an opportunity for a free two-hour training with Rahula Janowski who works for Catalyst, an organization that helps white people become better allies through recognizing and disrupting oppression. The training and potluck will be held on Thursday, August 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Betsy's weaving studio, 765 Parker Road, West Glover.

Still I Rise Festival

The festival was very successful with wonderful artists, speakers and performers. The location worked well. The audience was good, especially considering the ripple effects from the flooding earlier in the month. Attendees were very appreciative and reported coming away with new understanding. The panel worked well sandwiched between many uplifting aspects of the day. The artists reported feeling that the community welcomed and celebrated them; they would love to come back. Mariel and Darlene will write thank you notes to the three sponsors (Parker Pie, Barton Chamber, Jasper Hill) and the Glover Community School. The *Newport Daily Express* covered the event. Many thanks to Jethro for his organizing work.

The budget for artists was \$7,000, \$6,000 of which came from the Inclusive Communities grant through Vermont Community Foundation (VCF). The Barton Chamber contributed \$1,000 toward the festival. We have used all of the Vermont Community Foundation funds. We can apply for more grant funding from VCF. More information on finances will be presented next time.

Three performers did not make the festival for various reasons and have already received payment. We'll try to schedule a fall event featuring those performers.

If we do the festival again, we may want to shorten the length of it, to a maximum of four hours. We hope to increase the size of the audience by increasing publicity. The committee discussed the possibility of hanging the mural that was created at the event at the Town Hall. We will include an explanation about its creation.

Motion (Hayman/Vincent) to divide the flood relief donations from the festival between Red Sky Trading and Parson's Dinner House. APPROVED. Each will receive \$280.

Flood Relief Work

Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO) had work crews at two homes in Glover this week. They have identified many other homes in the area that still need help. They emphasize the need for a collective, community response for flood recovery. NEKO plans to have crews working on Saturdays for the foreseeable future. More information at <https://www.nekorganizing.org/floodrelief>

Glover is the only town in the area with the flood damage that hasn't implemented a flood debris removal plan. Members are urged to help educate and advocate with the town's selectmen. The state has mandated towns remove flood debris.

Health Equity Project

Jethro reported that the accessible community gardens project is moving forward. A community survey is planned for September. The garden will be ready for next year.

Flags/Banners with Logo

Noel will bring info about obtaining flags and/or a banner with our new logo to our next meeting.

Spanish Class

The planned Spanish class has been postponed.

Shadow Lake Beach Ramp

GREC facilitated the installation of a fabric ramp at the Shadow Lake Beach, making the lake more accessible. The project was paid for through ARPA funds.

Welcome Baskets

Four Welcome Bags have been delivered this summer. There are several new residents who will be added to the list of people to receive Welcome Baskets. Maria will follow up on donations. Darlene will pull together the printed materials.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Young, Secretary