

The Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

Minutes of Board Meeting 8/12/20

Present: Zia Durrani, Jeanine Rosh, William Stoeve, William Graves, Jackie Herships, Lisa Novemsky, Peggy Toy, Elaine Durbach, Jill Farrer, Esther Barcun
Tom Cunningham

Meeting commenced at 11:00am

Minutes from July 8, 2020 were read and approved

Family Education

Tom reached out to parents of the ECS family education program via email to determine their interest in leadership or Board positions at ECS. No parents have expressed interest at this time. Tom also suggested to non-member parents that they consider becoming members. He will communicate with parents re their attending ECS Annual Meeting.

Online Donations

Tom reached out to Sue re adding a Donate button to the website and determined that if we have a relationship with a credit card processor a Donate button can easily be added.

Annual Meeting

Will be held as a ZOOM meeting, hosted by Sue.

Information about the meeting was sent out, reminders and a link to the meeting will go out before the meeting.

Committee Reports can be sent to Sue. They can be emailed to Jeanine who will get them to Sue.

Building Update

Elaine reported that Marshall was hiring a plumber for a serious leak from a tenant's apartment. Marshall will be repairing wall damage.

Building Reopening

There is no immediate plan for re-opening the building. Jeanine got information from our insurance company on how to prepare a building for reopening in line with state and

federal guidelines and mandates. A Liability Waiver was suggested for people entering the building and possibly building tenants as well.

Bill Graves suggested looking into HEPA air filters for the building. He will research this further.

Opening Platform

Speaker will be Eliza Slattery, a Human Rights attorney who will speak about the impact of the pandemic on human rights around the world. The platform will be presented via Zoom at 11 am on September 13th. There is no newsletter going out at this time but a link to the platform can be put on the website and put on the ECS sign.

AEU Assembly

Zia reported on meetings she attended online.

Some of the successful community programs of other EC Societies included:

- philosophical discussions (end of life concerns, etc.) combined with social gatherings at coffees houses, cafes, etc.
- Getting young people involved through community projects. HS students at a Long Island ECS collected items, such as school supplies, for people in need in the community that included a GoFundMe and donation drive and created a "store" where people could come and select what they needed.
- Live music concerts as fundraisers
- Using blogging and podcasts to get young people involved
- Tap Black journalists as speakers, host a Jazz Cafe to increase diversity
- Have platforms on current topics of interest, such as Gun Safety
- Hold a Game Night
- Include current media of interest, including TEDed, NewsHour, The Moth

Two Resolutions were passed by AEU: Dying with dignity and Black Lives Matter

Zia will look into having the family education program put on the AEU website.

Esther suggested a virtual book discussion group Possible books: Caste, How to Be an Anti-Racist

Reclaim Our Vote - Zia reported they are now looking for volunteers for phone banks
Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Peggy Toy

