



Amherst Community Diversity Commission

Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, at 5:00 PM

In-Person, Study room at Amherst Public Library, Audubon Branch,
350 John James Audubon Pkwy, Amherst NY 14228

WELCOME & ROLL CALL: Chairperson Zhen Liu, PhD, welcomed all the attending members of the Amherst Community Diversity Commission.

ATTENDEES: Zhen Liu, PhD, Chairperson; Dr. Mohan Devgun, Vice Chairperson; Commission Members: Gul A. Rahman, Heidi Nicklaus Lefebvre, Anne Rohrer, Purnima Srinivasan Mohan, Yanhong Baranski, Martha Taggart, Amherst Town Secretary to the Councilmembers.

ABSENT: Angela Marinucci, Amherst Town Councilmember and Liaison, Della Gray-Hailey, Solomon Joseph, Dr. Mohammad Khan.

GUESTS: Dr. Ashanti Haynes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Dr. Ashanti Haynes introduced herself as an education consultant from the City of Buffalo.

September MEETING MINUTES:

The motion to approve the minutes was made by __ Dr. Devgun __ and seconded by __Heidi Nicklaus Lefebvre __. Unanimously approved.

RULES OF ORDER- Bylaws Review and Recommendations

1. Bylaws last reviewed in 2022
2. The Commission discussed the officer role and responsibility of school liaison in Amherst.
3. Removal of Public Relations Chairperson membership designation
4. Keep Education Coordinator membership designation
5. The monthly meeting agenda is now the responsibility of the Chairperson.
6. Bylaws to be reviewed once every year.
7. A member shall not miss more than two unexcused meetings. To get excused, the member needs to contact either the Assistant to the Town Board or the Chairperson before the meeting.

8. Other items to be specified in the recommended revision, which is to be emailed to the members by the Chairperson

The motion to approve the revision of the bylaws was made by Chairperson Zhen ____ and seconded by Dr. Devgun. Approved unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS:

1. Expiring members in December 2025: Zhen Liu, PhD, Chairperson; Dr. Mohan Devgun, Chairperson Purnima Srinivasan Mohan.
2. Members interested in renewing their terms should send an email with their intent to serve and copy Chairperson Zhen and Angela.
3. Members submit short bio and photo to Marty at mtaggart@amherst.ny.us if they are not posted on the website of the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

PLANNING ON ACTIVITIES FOR 2026:

1. Saturday February 28th Winter Children's program
2. Advertising for membership in the BEE Newspaper in Amherst
3. Holidays Around the World Display Case at the Audubon Library in December

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

Purnima Mohan reported her meeting with Superintendent Dr. Brown Hall. There are diversity events such as Diwali in the schools.

TOWN LIAISON REPORT:

Liaison Angela Marinucci was absent. No report

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATION, IF ANY:

FUTURE MEETINGS: Audubon library on November 12th, 2025 5:30PM & February 10th 5:30PM virtually on Zoom.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: First motion to adjourn the meeting by__ Dr. Devgun__ and seconded by __Heidi Nicklaus Lefebvre_. Unanimously approved.

MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of this coalition is to enhance and increase cooperation, understanding, and dialogue among residents of diverse cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and racial backgrounds, and to promote inclusion throughout the town. Some of the responsibilities of the coalition will be to study the demographics of Amherst; promote town-wide events that foster cultural minority participation on governmental boards and committees, and in the Town's workplace; and to facilitate meetings designed to promote a better understanding of who Amherst is as a community.

Respectfully submitted by

Solomon Joseph

Secretary of the Amherst Community Diversity Commission