



Amherst Community Diversity Commission

Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, at 5:00 PM

In-Person, Study room at Amherst Public Library, Audubon Branch,
350 John James Audubon Parkway, 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, Solomon Joseph, Secretary; Commission Members: Gul A. Rahman, Purnima Srinivasan Mohan, Yanhong Baranski, Della Gray-Hailey, Angela Marinucci, Amherst Town Councilmember and Liaison

ABSENT: Martha Taggart, Amherst Town Secretary to the Councilmembers, Dr. Mohammad Asghar Khan, Heidi Nicklaus Lafebvre, Anne Rohrer.

GUESTS:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The motion to approve the minutes was made by ___ Zhen ___ and seconded by ___ Dr. Devgun___. Unanimously approved.

RULES OF ORDER:

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 Martha Taggart, Amherst Town Secretary to the Councilmembers.
3. Members submit a short bio and photo to Marty at mtaggart@amherst.ny.us if they are not posted on the website of the Town.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

1. The Commission held a working meeting with the Amherst Public Library to plan the Children's event.
2. The Commission will present a "Holidays Around the World" Display Case at the Audubon Library in December

PLANNING ON ACTIVITIES FOR 2026:

1. Saturday, February 28th, Winter Children's program
 - Potential International Institute Jennifer Rizzo Choi, and Pam from Journey's End

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

No report from Purnima

TOWN LIAISON REPORT: Liaison Angela Marinucci was to present on Monday, December 1st, at Town Hall with the Town board meeting at 3 PM, and to put forth a resolution to rename Amherst Library to Shirley Chisholm Library. Public hearing would take place. Angela asked the Commission to email the town clerk or email Angela for any comments or feedback. She also mentioned the **newly elected Councilmember**, John Davis, as the first African American Councilman in Amherst.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATION, IF ANY:

FUTURE MEETINGS: February 10th, 5:30 PM virtually on Zoom. Link will be sent by Marty Taggart.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: First motion to adjourn the meeting by Gul Rahman ____ and seconded by __Zhen __. 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