



Amherst Community Diversity Commission

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025
5:30 PM, online meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Zhen Liu, PhD, Chairperson, Dr. Mohan Devgun, Angela Marinucci, Amherst Town Councilmember and Liaison, Commission Members: Heidi Nicklaus Lefebvre, Solomon Joseph, Purnima Srinivansan Mohan, Ann Rohrer, Martha Taggart, Amherst Town Secretary to the Supervisor.

GUESTS: Anna Niyonzima/The Refugee Partnerships of Western New York.

Absent: Mohammad Asghar Khan, Yanhong Baranski, Annette Herrman, Della Gray, Cynthia R. Bass. Gul A. Rahman

No official business was conducted due to the lack of a quorum.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

Those present discussed a list of topics briefly:

- Anna Niyonzima presented on the issue of advancing Refugee resettlement and educating the community to know the difference between immigrants and asylum seekers. Possible collaboration with the Refugee Partnerships of Western New York.
- Revisiting goals as a committee to provide truthful information where community members can ask questions.
- Nomination of Solomon Joseph as Secretary of Amherst Community Diversity Commission to be reviewed and approved by committee members.
- Opportunity to recruit new members and have a public opportunity for the community to become aware of our work as a committee.
- Preparing committee outreach materials and sharing a tent with the Chinese Community Foundation for AAPI event on May 18th.
- Confusion of communication between Amherst and Williamsville for the Juneteenth event and the importance of communicating clearly about events with another municipal entity going forward.
- How the community conversation with the school districts' superintendents was well received by the community and how the panel did a great job at the forum.

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,

Solomon Joseph

Secretary of Amherst Community Diversity Commission