

TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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**ITEM:**

**13. New Business**

**A. Discussion Item: Review of Boards/Commissions/Committees Relative to Overlapping Duties (*requested by Councilor Snyder*)**

Councilor Snyder explained that she had requested this item so Council members could review the functions of different Boards/Commissions/Committees to see if there is any overlapping functions within the Boards/Commissions/Committees. If there are overlapping, the Council could hold discussions to see if they should be combined. Councilor Snyder explained that any Board or Commission established through the Charter cannot be combined with any other Board or Commission at this time or until the Charter is opened up. There are Boards/Commissions/Committees that have a hard time making their quorums. Councilor Snyder gave some examples of Commissions she feels there may be some overlapping functions which are the Open Space Task Force and Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission, as well as the Human Relations Commission and the proposed Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission. She explained that she is not saying the Council needs to combine these Commissions, but would like the Council to review the functions to see if there are any overlapping functions between Boards/Commissions/Committees.

Councilor Evans explained that she is surprised to hear the suggestion of combining the Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission with the Human Relations Commission. The Council just unanimously passed a Statement of Support that creates the Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission. Councilor Snyder responded by explaining that during the meetings of the Black Lives Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee had spoken about adding some more responsibilities and even more individuals under the Human Relations Commission. Councilor Snyder stated that she supports creating a Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission but has noticed a lot of the duties and functions are overlapping with the Human Relations Commission's duties and functions. Councilor Evans stated that at the last meeting, Councilor Snyder had stated that the reason the Sub-Committee wanted the Social Justice and Racial Equity to be a Commission was to give it its own teeth. Councilor Evans said she appreciated those comments and feels that the Social Justice and Racial Equity needs to remain its own Commission.

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**ITEM:**

**13. A. (Continued)**

Councilor Maneeley explained that she feels Councilor Snyder is just pointing out there may be Boards/Commissions/Committees that have overlapping functions. There may be the possibility of merging different Boards/Commissions/Committees. She used the examples of certain Commissions because they are fresh in our minds.

Councilor Lydecker pointed out the differences between the Human Relations Commission and Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission, explaining that the Human Relations Commission is about community relations, civil rights, and relations among those who reside and work in South Windsor. The Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission will be promoting policy changes and training within Town Government and the Police Department.

Councilor Snyder stated that she supports the Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission and explained that she merely brought it up to show where overlapping could be happening. This is just the first look to see if there are any opportunities to reduce Boards/Commissions/Committees, but there may not be any opportunities.

**B. Discussion Item: The Creation of a Memorial Garden to Honor Residents Who Have Passed Away Due to COVID-19 *(requested by Councilor Evans)***

Councilor Evans explained that she would like the Council to discuss a way to recognize the lives lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. She suggested a memorial garden or something permanent to recognize the impact it has had on the community.

Councilor Maneeley stated that she wholeheartedly supports the desire to recognize those who have passed away with some sort of memorial. There have been so many people who have passed away in the past year, and some may not be related to COVID-19. Councilor Maneeley suggested that the memorial be more inclusive and not just related to the COVID-19 epidemic. Councilor Maneeley said she would love to support a memorial garden in Town.

**(Discussion Continued on Next Page)**