



Together, We Are Lambertville | Juntos Somos Lambertville

CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:30 PM, CITY HALL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY, 14 2022  
MINUTES

1

The meeting was called to order at \_\_\_7:00\_\_\_ p.m. with a mission statement and Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Roni Todd-Marino presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:  Trina Bardusco,  Lt. Bob Brown,  Scott Elliot,  Bambi Kuhl,  
 Councilwoman Benedetta Lambert,  Ricardo Zapata  Secretary Bruce  
Harris, and  Chair Roni Todd-Marino.

**APPROVAL OF 2/14/22 MEETING MINUTES.**

Lt. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Scott Elliot. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Roni welcomed potential volunteer, Cathy Brennon as well as two students interested in joining the Council, Araceli Torres and Fatima Rodriguez-Clavel. Araceli and Fatima are both juniors at SHRSD who expressed an interest in learning more about local government and helping to improve Lambertville for all residents.

**Ordinance and Policy Review:** Scott asked that this item remain on the agenda although no resource has been identified as of yet.

**People of Lambertville (Oral History project):** Trina reported that we have a team to collect stories, and at this time we are looking for additional volunteers to help with the postproduction. Fatima suggested contacting the Media and Broadcasting class at South. The goal remains to present the stories at the We Are 1 event, but if possible, make some available at Shadfest. We also discussed partnering with the Historical Society to provide a venue for interviews during Shadfest.

### **Only Together Will We End Racism**

#### FEBRUARY-

Roni reported that the Together We Sing event was well received and there was a request to repeat the program at the We Are 1 event.

*Who We Are* had a high participation rate, with a full theater and engaged discussion.

#### MARCH

Reading group *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* on 3/29 at the Library facilitated by Elizabeth O'Donnell.

#### APRIL

Shadfest – Roni will circulate a sign-up sheet for members for the Shadfest booth. Discussed stories to highlight at the event. Bambi will reach out to families that are connected to the history of Shadfest.

Earth Day/Month – Roni shared that a member of Lambertville Goes Wild has asked us to facilitate a reading group with an environmental justice theme. Discussed facilitator options and potential events to express support for families impacted by Ida.

Discussion ensued regarding families who still have not received FEMA funding. Several members questioned incidents of potential discrimination and how to help the Latino families who reported mistreatment during the application process. Lt. Brown and Councilwoman Lambert offered to bring the topic to the mayor to determine best approach for submitting a complaint on the behalf of these families. Bambi indicated that there are still funds available for families and she requested help in outreach to families in need. She also discussed her support to a resident in a recent successful appeal to FEMA. Fatima and Araceli reported that many Latino families have given up and would benefit from support in the appeal process.

Ideas for ways to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the victims of Ida were proposed, including hosting a storytelling event. This may be appropriate for Earth Day but that leaves little time to plan an event. Alternative date in September, on the anniversary of the flood.

#### MAY

Pride Parade. We are registered and confirmed to march with students of the high school's Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA). Discussed ideas for a float.

#### JUNE

We Are 1 - Ryan Spreen is unable to volunteer at this time so we will keep the event similar to years past and wait on the expansion. Roni explained the volunteer process and reviewed some of the planned events of the day. Lt. Brown will contact Chief Barlow

about grilling. The PTA will host a Book Swap and bike raffle. A participant in the Together We Sing event has agreed to teach a song in ASL to participants. Mary Jane Legere has a group working on a children's art project. Roni will work with the city on permits and rental details.

June 4<sup>th</sup> Latinx film. Trina shared that the Library has a grant for Latino Outreach. As a part of that effort they are partnering with the Acme Screening Room. Alternate dates will be considered as this is the day before We Are 1.

The Acme Screening room has also expressed interest in cohosting a Juneteenth event.

#### JULY

Disability Pride Month - The group agreed to continue to brainstorm ideas for an event

Reading Group – *Me and White Supremacy* facilitated by Bruce and Filomena Hengst

#### AUGUST

No activity planned as of yet

#### SEPTEMBER

Possible event on the anniversary of Ida.

#### OCTOBER

Dia de la Muertos and possible film screening

#### NOVEMBER

Know Your Rights event – Ricardo confirmed that Fisherman's Mark is planning to host annual events.

#### DECEMBER

Reading group TBD

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Rainbow Crosswalks- Members of the Council were contacted by New Hope Celebrates requesting support of the painting of crosswalks in town. Councilwoman Lambert confirmed that the request will be reviewed at the next City Council meeting and she will report back the outcome of that review.

Zoom option of meetings – The city is allowing councils to decide if they want to host hybrid meetings. We will hold on a decision until Scott is in the discussion.

Hunterdon Healthcare (HHC) grant – Lt. Brown reported that HHC is applying for a grant to open a stand-alone mental health screening center, separate from the hospital emergency department. He clarified that the initial phase of the grant will serve adults only, and youth will still be screened at the hospital.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*None.*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**     *None*

**ADJOURNMENT**