

**Morris County Advisory Committee on Women**  
**July 20, 2022, 5:30pm to 7:00pm**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Karen O’Keeffe, Kasey Errico, Eileen Specchio Pam Bennett-Santoro, Donna Boyce, Elaine Muller, and Sydney Ugalde

**Welcome and Introductions:** Ms. O’Keeffe called the meeting to order at 5:33pm and welcomed members.

**Review of May 18, 2022 meeting minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes were made by Ms. Bennett-Santoro, seconded by Ms. Muller.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

- a. Membership – Ms. O’Keeffe again encouraged Committee to actively seek out new members.
- b. Seeds of Change – Ms. O’Keeffe stated that Ms. Specchio, Ms. Bennett-Santoro, and Ms. Ugalde worked on this event last year, and will continue to do so for next year. If anyone else is interested in joining this subcommittee, please do so. We need to start thinking about this now in terms of reviewing the application and thinking about some of the reasons we didn’t generate a lot of responses. Perhaps we will need to look at the application process and revise it if we feel it’s too onerous. Ms. O’Keeffe will revisit this topic at September meeting. Ms. Muller recommended conducting follow-up calls once the applications go out.
- c. Action/Planning – Ms. O’Keeffe stated that the Homeless Trust Fund support letter is tied into Old Business and recommended moving to that agenda item.

**Old Business:** Homeless Trust Fund support letter discussion and vote.

Ms. O’Keeffe asked Committee Members if there were any comments on the support letter. Ms. Specchio reviewed the letter and thought it read well and felt it would be an effective letter of support. Ms. Muller was impressed and said it was very good. Ms. O’Keeffe recommended voting on the letter of support and asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Specchio made a motion to accept the letter of support as is. Ms. Muller seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**New Business:** Ms. O’Keeffe stated that she meets with Ms. Errico and Ms. Bjornson prior to the formal committee meetings to develop the agenda. During these prep meetings, the way our current meetings are structured was discussed. The Committee meets on a Monthly basis. One thought on revising the meeting structure, which will be effective January, 2023, is to have the full Committee meetings every other month. For example, in January, the full Committee meeting will occur, in February, only the Subcommittees meet, in March the full Committee will meet and discuss agenda and the Subcommittee reports, etc. Ms. Specchio was in agreement with the new meeting structure beginning in 2023. She and Ms. Bennett-Santoro have agreed to meet in person before September to begin the Seeds of Change discussion for next year. Ms. O’Keeffe reminded the Committee that it was agreed to hold the Seeds of Change award in March, in conjunction with Women’s History Month. Ms. Specchio asked if there was a way to search the County Newsletter archives for articles on Morris County women that may be viable candidates for the Seeds of Change award. Ms. Errico will check with the County Information Officer.

**Public Sections:** None

**Next Meeting:** September 21, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm