

Craftsbury Selectboard Meeting

July 7, 2020

Topic: Form or not to form racial justice and equity task force.

Sung-Hee/CPH statement in support of forming a racial justice and equity task force.

My first name is Sung-Hee and my last name is Chung. I am a founder of Craftsbury Public House, an all volunteer 501 (c)3 non-profit charitable organization. The organization was founded in 2015 in response to the systemic oppression, bullying, and violence toward immigrants to Craftsbury when they strive for equal opportunity.

The recent racial justice and equity discussion in Craftsbury mirrors the national Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, and All Lives Matter / Blue Lives Matter counter. This national narrative is used even though it may not be as pertinent to the unique history, present, and future of Craftsbury. For example, Craftsbury does not have the police presence, nor the overt police bias and violence against people of color that prompted the BLM movement. Instead, Craftsbury includes a system of “self- governance”.

All lives do matter and deserve equal opportunity regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, marriage, religious or political affiliations. **And also** regardless of culture (including resulting distinction in behavior), classes, privilege, spaces, bodies (colour, weight, height, shape, etc..).

Thus a process of justice and equity must begin by understanding how ideology of justice and equity applies to Craftsbury. The task force should therefore:

- Investigate and uncover the power structures and policies causing inequity (e.g. what group has the power to institute policy).
- Invent or find policy that can eliminate inequity.
- Disseminate and educate about policy correctives.