



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**November 1 2016, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

**Attendees:** Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Susan Ellis, Zoe Tarrant, Sarah Heath, and Dolores Paoli

**Guest:** Catherine Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 8:03AM

**Approval of Minutes:** Catherine Onyemelukwe moved that the minutes from our October 4, 2016 meeting be approved with a correction. Zoe seconded the motion. The motion passed. The October 2016 minutes will be posted.

**What's Up:**

Students are stressed in anticipation of our national election as are adults. The schools have their hands full in addressing some of the issues.

**Programming:**

1. **Interfaith Council:** We are meeting and planning for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration on January 15, 2017 at the Westport Playhouse. The speaker has been invited and we are currently working on financing and the program for that day.
2. **Unitarian Church "Black Lives Matter":** The banner went up as discussed in October. The church held a nice program on the day the banner was put up. Several speakers participated – including Harold and Rev. Alison Patton.
3. **Follow-on Conversations:** Catherine Lewis and Zoe are preparing for their upcoming conversation on "what we tell our children about race". They are setting a January date at the Westport Library and will let us know soon.

Also, for our later conversation about policing to take place a few months after the one on race and our children, we will talk with Westport Police Chief, Foti Koskinas. The topic is how police forces are handling issues with race. Obviously, our conversation will deal specifically with Westport. The issue of profiling should be of interest. Westport is one of the 27 towns who collect data on the ethnicity of those who are stopped by officers.

**Action:** We'll invite the chief to our next TEAM Westport meeting to get his thoughts about a topic and approach.

4. **TEAM Staples:** The students are organizing and have a faculty sponsor, Drew Coyne. Now we shall reach out to the students and school system administrators about direction and some items that need to be addressed. Harold will spearhead that effort.
5. **Monthly Discussions:** We formulated plans in order to launch our regular monthly discussions. We discussed possible topics, locations, support from other organizations including churches and social justice constituencies, how to advertise, and format. Sunday afternoon seems to be the best time. We can involve TEAM Staples.

**Action:** Maggie, Harold, and Bernicestine will meet with Rev. Alison Patton to develop more of the planning. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting(s).

6. **Citizen's Police Academy:** The last session of 9 sessions will be held this coming Thursday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Catherine Onyemelukwe, Bernicestine McLeod, and David Vita attended representing TEAM Westport.



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**7. Education:**

Susan is pulling the Essay Contest together and is asking for help with a topic for this year. She will work with the TEAM Staples advisor, Drew Coyne and the Staples principal, James D'Amico. Reaching out to the English teachers at Staples may also be helpful.

Action: If you have ideas, please send them to Susan. Catherine will help out as well.

8. **Funding:** Catherine is submitting requests for funding and grants for the TEAM Westport essay contest to several local organizations. Ramin has written text for an annual report for TEAM Westport to be used, in part, with some of the funding requests. Our essay contest seems to be one of the only vehicles around to get students to focus on race and deserves support – as stated by a Westport citizen.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25AM.

The next meeting will be held at 8AM on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 in Room 201, Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary