



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**December 6, 2016, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

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

**Guests:** First Selectman Jim Marpe, Westport Police Chief Foti Koskinas, Reverend John Morehouse (Unitarian Church), Reverend Alison Patton (Saugatuck Church), Ramin Ganeshram, Catherine Lewis, Althea Seaborn

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM

**Approval of Minutes:** Maggie moved that we approve the minutes from our November 1, 2016 meeting. Susan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted.

**Conversation with Chief of Police Foti Koskinas:**

Harold introduced Chief Koskinas for our discussion. In 2017, TEAM Westport and Chief Koskinas are planning to host a town-wide conversation on policing. Subtopics may include exploring the dynamic tension of stereotyping (policing vs. being welcoming); black lives matter, too as well as blue lives; current cases in the news involving the shootings of African Americans by police including the Walter Scott case; and apparent differentials in justice as evidenced most recently by the Joe McKnight case.

Chief Koskinas and members of TEAM Westport engaged in a productive conversation. We all agreed to follow up with the Chief's team at a later time and to continue having discussions in the future.

**Programming:**

1. Conversation: What Do We Tell our Children About Race:

This is currently scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at 3PM, at the Westport Library. Zoe Tarrant and Catherine Lewis are finalizing plans with the Library.

2. Monthly Discussions:

We are working on launching our monthly conversation sessions. We'll use Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe's Thanksgiving message as a basis for a post-election conversation in light of our November national election. Questions to reflect upon are: what preoccupies you now, what worries you, and what do you wonder about? The format for the conversation will invite participants to question as well as listen, to speak from personal experiences and to share experiences – creating a space with mutual respect. We had planned for the first session to be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We are now targeting Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 3 PM at the Saugatuck Congregational Church.

3. Playhouse/Interfaith:

The Save-the-Date information for our 2017 Martin Luther King Day celebration on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 [in partnership with the Interfaith Council and the Westport Country Playhouse] has been distributed.

4. Essay Contest:

The essay topic is ready and will be posted. Ramin will write a press release for this activity. Sponsors are being sought.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. The next meeting will be held at 8:00 AM Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary