



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2017, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

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

**Guests:** David Vita, Ramin Ganeshram, Jennifer Keller, Karen Klein, and Althea Seaborn

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 AM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Catherine Onyemelukwe moved that we approve our December 6, 2016 meeting minutes. Zoe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes will be posted.

**What's Up?**

Norwalk has just pulled from classrooms a text book that had a misleading and inaccurate (and very brief) description of slavery in Connecticut. This text book had been used since 2007.

A resource that discusses slavery in Connecticut and New England to a great extent is Complicity – written by three *Hartford Courant* journalists. A few years back an extract of this work was sent out to each town in Connecticut.

**Programming**

1. **Monthly Discussions – Recap:** We had a great, well-attended session on Sunday, January 8th on how residents of Westport are feeling during this post-election pre-inauguration time. Our objective is to provide a forum in a safe place for people to come to listen to each other – especially with diverse views.  
In planning for the next “monthly” discussion, there are questions we have to answer. How often? Where? Who will facilitate each one? What topics? How to attract attendees?  
**Action:** If you want to suggest a topic, please contact Maggie.
2. **Interfaith Council:** This coming Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3PM we will be observing and celebrating Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday at the Playhouse. Cosponsors are TEAM Westport, the Interfaith Council, and the Playhouse. Brown University Professor Tricia Rose will be delivering the keynote address.
3. **Conversation – What Do We Tell Our Children About Race?:** This session is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 PM at the Westport Library. The Library is working on the press release and will distribute it via e-news and outside media at the beginning of next week.
4. **Follow-on Conversations:** We are exploring possibilities. Some suggestions include:
  - a. Showing and discussion of *The Thirteenth* by Ana Duvernay;
  - b. Another film in partnership with a Westport group.
5. **Library Programming:** At a Writers Workshop in February, there will be an author talking about writing as well as about being Muslim.
6. **TEAM Staples:** The members of TEAM Staples will meet with Professor Tricia Rose at the Playhouse prior to the MLK celebration on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, the students will help out during the Q&A session at the Playhouse by taking the microphones to questioners in the audience.



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7. Adrian Miller who wrote *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, From the Washingtons to the Obamas* will be at Norwalk Community College on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Perhaps we can have him speak here as well.

**Education:**

1. Essay Contest: We are asking entrants to discuss "white privilege". We will be publicizing as before via press release. We have the topic and the poster. The teachers have reviewed the topic. We are set to announce the winners in April.
2. The School system will hold district-wide staff development workshops in February talking about race in school.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.10 AM.

The next meeting will be held at 8 AM on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 in Room 309 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary