

# Town of East Windsor

## Diversity Council

### Minutes

Monday, November 23, 2020  
Location: Meeting held via Zoom

#### TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Ana Rivera, as the chair. Meeting was held via Zoom.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council member Mary Mellom led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

#### ATTENDANCE

Members present: Ana Rivera (chair), Natasha Holmes, Mary Mellom, Robert Leach, Rick Leborious, Jonny Wyse, and Joe Blackwood  
Members absent: None  
Guests/Public: First Selectman Jason Bowsza, Selectmen Charlie Nordell and Sarah Muska.

#### MINUTES

Minutes from October 26, 2020 were tabled for approval until December regular meeting since they were received late for the council to review.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction and Welcome of newest committee member, Natasha Holmes

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) **Discussion of Plantation Road Renaming** continued from last meeting amongst all committee members in attendance. Chair has reached out to Governor's office to request a look at this from a state-wide level with three (3) CT towns branded with the name. Additional name recommendation of Markowski Farm Road was thrown out to honor historical preference of an established farm on the road. It was suggested that underlying costs should be addressed by BOS. The committee discussed our role in being advocates of the underrepresented and an advisory group that will refer items on our slate to the BOS for further consideration. Committee held a discussion pertaining to pros and cons of setting up guidelines/criteria that will help impart fairness of ideas brought to council to help decide what should be moved to BOS. First Selectman gave brief comments on what the next steps would be for the BOS if the committee referred the rename proposition. Council Member LeBorious moved that the council recommend to BOS that the name of Plantation Road be changed. Seconded by Chair.

Further discussion was held. Motion was withdrawn by the maker and seconder at the advisement of committee members to canvas the residents of the street for added insight for the proposal.

Next steps: Committee looking to BOS to provide guidance on proper mannerism to poll the residents on the street for their feedback on:

- 1) Are they for or against a rename
- 2) Provide rename recommendations received thus far
- 3) Solicit additional rename recommendations

Ana will follow-up with Jason, matter tabled till December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Establish Roles and Elect Minutes Taker**

- Council member Mellom nominated council member Holmes for minutes keeper. Council member Holmes agreed to assume the responsibility.
- BOS still in discussion of selection of liaison to the Diversity Council

### **B. Discuss Change in Meeting Schedule**

- Chair asked by First Selectman to submit list of regular meeting cadence to Town Clerk office by end of January to be filed
- Committee consensus was that 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 6pm EST worked for everyone.

### **C. Equality Act Resolution**

- Presented to the Council by Selectman Muska. Committee unanimously agreed to table until December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **D. Collaboration with Ellington Diversity Council**

- Invitation received to collaborate with Ellington Council. Committee was not opposed to the idea. Ideas to collaborate on are still undefined.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Council member Holmes moved to adjourn at 7:15pm, seconded by council member Leach. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Natasha Holmes  
Diversity Council Minutes Keeper