

# Town of East Windsor Diversity Council

Joseph Blackwood  
Ana Rivera  
Richard LeBorious  
Narda Nadeau

Natasha Holmes  
Jonathan Wyse  
Gabriela Resto

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 27, 2021

### TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

East Windsor Town Hall 11 Rye Street Broad Brook, Ct

Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/3326833563> Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

- 1) CALL TO ORDER by Chair at 6:04pm
- 2) ESTABLISH QUORUM; quorum was established  
In-Person Attendees: Ana Rivera (chair), Richard LeBorious (vice-chair), Joseph Blackwood, Narda Nadeau, Gabriela Resto, Selectman Nordell  
Virtual Attendees: Natasha Holmes and Jonathan Wyse
- 3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: So moved by Rick; Motion carried unanimously
- 4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION : none
- 5) COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE : none
- 6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS : none
- 7) NEW BUSINESS
  - A) Planning & Zoning – Farm Worker Housing:  
Discussion was brought to the floor by the chair who attended a P & Z meeting where culturally insensitive questioning was held regarding a farmer's application for housing for his migrant workers. From the stance of this Council, in order to ensure Fair Housing Act is being considered and racially motivated questions aren't being brought into this application process towards the legal migrant workers, this council supports that the application should receive no different treatment based on the race of the workers the housing would support.  
**Action of this Council:** Council member Resto will devise a letter that will be sent to the Commissioner of P & Z by October 12<sup>th</sup> that supports fair consideration of this and any application that may come before this board regardless of race or cultural differences and the Council will issue a formal statement during the public meeting when this application hits the P & Z agenda specifically around the insensitive questioning that occurred.

B) Stone Project

Council Member Blackwood shared information regarding the Witness Stones Project that began in Guilford, Connecticut, in 2017. Detailed information on this project can be found here: <https://witnessstonesproject.org/>

**Action of this Council:** Council Member Blackwood agreed to connect with Dennis Culliton from Guilford to come speak to this Council more about how we can get involved with this project. Council member Resto made a suggestion that this could be incorporated and shared with the East Windsor Public School System as an integration with an A.P. History Class as a 1 to 2 week project. It is believed that the last two projects were supported by state funding. More to come.

C) Commission/Board Meetings

The Chair encouraged members to attend the various Commission and Board meetings in Town for awareness and possible collaboration.

**Action of this Council:** Suggestion that members rotate meetings to advise that we are here, to advise what the Town's policy is with regards to Diversity and Inclusion and to let them know we are hereto help ensure fairness in all aspects. Council Member Resto will draft a uniform letter that we can send to all Commissioners and chairs by October 11<sup>th</sup>.

D) DataHaven CT Town Equity Report

Council Member Resto provided the following report and walked her fellow council members through the overview, demographics, graphs and facts that called out areas where there are gaps and racial disparities in between our town and state-wide. Some of those facts called out that there is 63% white in CT, East Windsor holds 73%. Native Americans are not identified on the report and should be as we focus on the upcoming Indigenous People Day. That we have a large population of youth of color in our town and we could use this information to plan more family focused projects in the future. Minorities being marginalized make up a large % of the population. Would like to get the information on LGBTQ and people with disabilities as to not leave out any focus needs of those communities. Education stats seemed the most disturbing as they mentioned suspension rate but couldn't provide graduation rates of our youth in town.

**Action of this Council:** Provide this report to Town Clerk for distribution to Selectman office, BOE and other relevant Boards.

E) Update on Plantation Road

Chair advised that she had approached the First Selectman for an update on whether this proclamation was brought to the Board of Selectman as requested by this Council back in April of this year and was advised that it had not been and that it was the decision of the First Selectman to table bringing it forth due to "noise" raised by the community and costs. Selectman Nordell clearly explained that once the item was placed on the agenda of the BOS, then it would need a passing vote of the Board to bring to public meeting. Chair Rivera discussed the research she did on costs towards a name change and investigation with the D.O.T. Council Member Holmes reminded everyone that we need to be so ever careful to silence issues that are a priority for the minority because they are uncomfortable for the majority and that we need to push for the consideration of this proposal as it addresses Diversity and Inclusion and has rooted history that poses an unhealthy reminder of racism for our minority residents and that leading with cost should not dismiss the real human cost often overlooked

and expected to be absorbed by our taxpayers of color when we quietly dismiss the validity of their request.

**Action of this Council:** Re-request that the BOS place this on their upcoming agenda and send notice to this Council for public participation.

F) Grant proposal

The information for the East Windsor Greater Together Community Fund has come in later than expected. The Council agreed that we'd want to proceed with the application for up to \$10K that can be used for collaborative programming for Education Diversity, Policing Diversity and Community Outreach seeking facilitators to run forums and workshops where this council would co-sponsor.

**Action for this Council:** Special Meeting was voted on (R.L. motion/J.B. second – carried unanimously) for Monday 10/4 6pm to complete the application.

8) NEXT MEETING DATE

October 25, 2021

9) ADJOURNMENT: Chair adjourned at 7:39PM (R.L. motion/J.B. second – carried unanimously)

Distribution

Joseph Blackwood  
Jonathan Wyse  
Richard LeBorious

Ana Rivera  
Gabriela Resto  
Jason Bowsza, First Selectman

Natasha Holmes  
  
Town Clerk