

**TOWN OF WESTERLY  
MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
Minutes prior to approval**

Charisse Duroure Morrone  
Mary Carol Kendzia  
Peter C. Ogle  
Frank Pendola  
Katherine Rosen  
Diane Bowdy  
*School Committee Liaison*  
Leslie S. Dunn

**Absent**

Timothy G. Flanagan  
April Dinwoodie  
Ruth Tureckova  
*Town Council Liaison*  
Christopher Duhamel  
*School Committee Liaison*  
Angela B. Goethals

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
at 5:30 P.M.  
Westerly Town Hall  
Municipal Court Room  
45 Broad Street  
Westerly, RI 02891**

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1. Call to order at 5:30 pm
  2. General check-in, welcome to new committee member Diane Bowdy
  3. Multicultural Committee Mission - read by Diane Bowdy

The Westerly Multicultural Committee is a diverse committee of residents dedicated to exploring and promoting the full cultural richness of Westerly. In celebrating and embracing the traditions and values of the groups within our community, we will harness the social and economic benefits of diversity and tighten the common bonds between us.

4. Conversation Guidelines - read by Mary Carol Kendzia
  - **Actively listen**-- ask as much as you talk; avoid assumptions and seek true clarity
  - **Agree to disagree** – as individuals, we may not always agree and when there are disagreements, each member agrees to be cordial and civil

- **Be present** -- stay checked in; commit to the practice of being effective at conversations centered in complexity –resisting the urge to be multitasking if at all possible
  - **Commit to the community** – understand that our work is part of the bigger community of Westerly that is growing more diverse
5. Review and approve minutes from the March 18, 2026, meeting
    - Motion made by Katherine Rosen, seconded by Frank Pendola, passed unanimously
  6. Westerly Town Council Update - none
  7. Neighbor Day 2026
    - a. Working group reports
      - Pete & Charisse are handling posters
      - Run of show determined; sound system will be set up by Park (Alan Peck)
      - Charisse and Katherine will meet with DAR to finalize plans
      - Messaging for event will happen at April 22 meeting
    - b. Budget Review
      - Charisse is assuming most of the purchasing to facilitate reimbursement
    - c. Next meeting dates - see below
  8. Old Business
    - Charisse attended the Westerly High School International Dinner on March 26. She will meet with Sarah Steverman to determine the best way for the Multicultural Committee to participate next year.
  9. Public Comment - none
  10. Next meetings:
 

Wednesday 4/22/2026 at 5:30 pm

Wednesday 5/13/2026 at 5:30 pm
  11. Adjournment at 6:15 pm
    - Motion made by Diane Bowdy, seconded by Frank Pendola, passed unanimously