

**TOWN OF WESTERLY
MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE
Minutes Prior to Approval**

In attendance:

Diane Bowdy
Charisse Duroure Morrone
Mary Carol Kendzia
Peter C. Ogle
Frank Pendola
Katherine Rosen
Ruth Tureckova
School Committee Liaison
Angela B. Goethals

Absent:

Timothy G. Flanagan
April Dinwoodie
Town Council Liaison
Christopher Duhamel
School Committee Liaisons
Leslie S. Dunn

**Wednesday, April 29, 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 5:33 p.m. by Charisse Duroure Morrone
 2. General check-in, welcome
 3. Multicultural Committee Mission read by Frank Pendola

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 Diane Bowdy
 - **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 April 8, 2026, meeting. Motion to approve by Mary Carol Kendzia, second by Frank Pendola, unanimously approved.
 6. Review and approve minutes from the May 14, 2025, meeting. Motion to approve by Frank Pendola, second by Charisse Duroure Morrone, unanimously approved.
 7. Westerly Town Council Update - postponed
 8. Neighbor Day 2026
 - a. Working group reports
 - i. Activities are ready for the day – volunteers are being recruited, printing is in process
 - ii. Promotions – in process, on radio shows and in the local paper, social media, and flyers have been posted
 - b. Budget Review – all receipts will be processed through Charisse Duroure Morrone.
 - c. Next meeting dates
 9. Old Business – none
 10. Public Comment– none
 11. Next meetings:
 - Wednesday 5/13/2026 at 5:30 pm
 - Wednesday 5/20/2026 at 5:30 pm
 12. Adjournment – motion to adjourn by Ruth Tureckova, seconded by Frank Pendola, unanimously passed at 6:33 p.m.