

Ad Hoc Diversity and Inclusion Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Jan. 20, 2021

Video of this meeting can be found here:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/woodbridgect/lsr.php?RCID=1e3236d8262e4e90ae617cae70cede83>

In attendance: Chair Ellen Scalettar, Vice Chair Robert Reed, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Neelima Kaushal, Mauriel Vega, Joanna Ali, guests Karen Siegel, Jennifer DiBlanda, Samantha Woodruff and staff Betsy Yagla

Ms. Scalettar called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Karen Siegel, director of policy for Health Equity Solutions, discussed the nonprofit's proposal for municipalities to declare racism a public health crisis. She explained that racism is a factor in opportunity, including the opportunity to be healthy. The resolution is not a solution, she said, but one of many steps in a long journey. The resolution is a value statement that the Town will hold itself responsible to make changes. Its not intended to be an accusation or an empty gesture. She said that if the Town signs the resolution Health Equity Solutions would be available to work with the Town to help undertake an assessment of current policies and to offer guidance and support. Twenty towns in Connecticut have signed the resolution since June. Health Equity Solutions will be holding a webinar about the program in February.
2. New committee member Joanna Ali introduced herself to the committee.
3. Jennifer DiBlanda and Samantha Woodruff of 10 Selden discussed the transformation of the Amity Teen Center to 10 Selden. They discussed the plan to put a mural on the building's exterior to show off the organization's programming and to embrace the community's diversity. They are seeking collaboration and input. The committee referred them to the high school's Diversity in Action Club, the Beecher Road School diversity committee and the Community Council.
4. Updates/Announcements
Ms. Scalettar shared that she and Ms. Yagla met with the Library Director and chair of the Library Commission about the diversity event to explore ideas. She will continue to explore ideas and report back.

She suggested that the committee be briefed on the zoning application regarding affordable housing and she will ask Town Counsel Gerald Weiner to do so or refer them to someone who can.

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes suggested that the new Woodbridge Superintendent also be invited to the next meeting.

5. Minutes: Ms. Scalettar made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Mr. Reed seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
6. At 7:33 pm Ms. Scalettar made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ferrante Fernandes seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned.