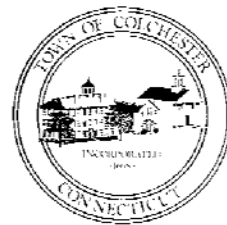




Colchester Youth FIRST

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YOUTH FIRST COALITION May 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes Location: Colchester Youth Center Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Voting members present: Lorraine Marvin, Linda Bromley, Shirley Ellis, Pam Scheibelein, Gina Ebbeling, Kathy Wonderly, Robert Suchecki

Voting members absent:

Non voting members present: Christopher Bennett, Barbara Gilbert, Linda Iacobellis, Meaghan Hickey

Non voting members absent:

Others present: Valerie Geato, Jennifer Martino, Ashlee Denny, Amber Albee, Ginnie Streppa, Josh Vinoski, Denise Mizla (BOS), Michael Voiland (BOE), Rob Tarlov (BOF)

1. Call meeting to order: Rob Suchecki called the meeting to order at 5:06pm
2. Public comments: None
3. Rob motion to approve the April meeting minutes, seconded by
4. Valerie noted that she had received an application from Josh Vinoski for board membership. A motion is set by Rob to vote him in as a new board member, seconded by . All board members vote yes for new membership.
5. Program updates:
 - a. Summer registration started Monday, May 5th at 8:30am. Everything is going smoothly and several trips are already full and on waiting lists.
 - b. YAC has sent out requests to area businesses and schools to display the substance abuse prevention lawn signs with statistics provided by the most recent youth survey. Several have been returned and people are receptive to the project. The school statistics should be approved by Jeff at BOE. Pam and Rob volunteered to have signs placed in their own lawns.
 - c. C3 Family Fun Day at farm, June 21st - Youth First should set up a table selling water and provide information about the Board and how to become involved. Linda Bromley is going to check her availability for the event.
6. 2014 Goals “Year of the Family”
 - a. Family Summer Palooza
 - i. Focus on advertising- in Colchester connection, sign on the green?, emphasize family focus.
 - ii. \$5 bracelet will include 2 rides on the slide, 1 spin art, 1 ice cream, 1 face paint (to be marked on bracelet).
 - iii. Additional tickets will be sold for the slide for \$1. T-shirts are \$10.

- iv. Kathy was able to get Ben & Jerry to donate ice cream, and Gina got donations from Farmer's Cow.
 - v. We need volunteers! Volunteer hours will be from 10:30a-2:30p.
 - vi. Lorraine and Linda will be working the hot dog station, Kathy will be working as the cashier.
 - vii. Youth Services has 3 easy ups, Pam will bring one.
 - viii. Chris confirmed the popcorn machine, supplies will be purchased.
 - ix. Gina confirmed Mom's Club for face painting.
 - x. Everyone bring a prepackaged baked good to be sold for \$1
 - xi. CES event on June 12th- set up a booth from 3:30-5:30 to promote the event and possibly presell bracelets.
 - b. "Fun Mudder" may not be realistically possible for this Fall. All agree to revisit the idea and work on developing activities and details of the event at a later date.
 - c. Increasing awareness, interest, and membership in Youth First- Would anyone be interested in representing Youth First on a public platform? Need people for advocacy- Gina would be interested in speaking on our behalf.
7. Local business sales of drug paraphernalia- Update and discussion of action plan.
 - a. BP was found to have a 4 ft display case of bong and pipes, they also had a separate display with incense. Westchester market had a display, but when Chris went to investigate it, the display had been removed and replaced with knives. The associate working claimed to know nothing about what was previously there.
 - b. Valerie noted that we need to move forward with public awareness. We need to make it known that we don't need it or want it in our community.
 - c. It was agreed upon that we should start with the softer approach that Chris mentioned and write a letter from the board including facts and statistics. Give them a chance to make the right choice on their own before taking more extreme steps such as boycotting the business.
 - d. The idea was set forth that the civics classes could compose the letter- Meaghan stated that the idea had been presented to them in the past and most students didn't seem receptive to the idea.
 - e. Jen will contact Michelle Hamilton for a draft of the letter to start with.
8. Prescription Abuse Awareness Campaign/ Community Conversation: Jen is working on getting a speaker for the first week of June.
9. Youth Leadership Award: Jen has chosen two students who are equally deserving of this recognition- Jordan Spalla and Courtney Willson. They will be sent an invitation to attend the next board meeting and will be presented with their award. Rob motioned to approve \$200 for each recipient, Kathy seconded the motion.
10. Other Business: Rob Suchecki addressed everyone with the thought to step down as chairman, but stay on the board for the following year.
11. Adjourn: Rob Suchecki motioned to adjourn at 6:24, seconded by Kathy Wonderly.