

0Dartmouth Youth Commission
October 12, 2011
Minutes
6:30 PM in Room 118 Town Hall

Members Present: Jamie Jacquart, Rosalyn Glaser-Bernstein, Debra Brejcha, Gale Schultz, Dan Cook, Michael McHenry, Nicole Plante,

Regrets: None

The Previous Minutes of 5.11.11 were approved as read.

Budget Review dated 7.19.11 was approved as presented.

Old Business:

- Kevin reported that the new Youth Advocate Office is 99.5% completed! Thanks to the many teens, parents, townspeople and Commissioners who helped to make it happen!
- Our laptop table is all built; all we need now are laptops to put on it! Jamie will check prices at best Buy and Kevin will check at Computer Genius. Ideally, Kevin hopes that we can equip the Youth Advocate's Office with at least four 13 inch screen laptops that are equipped with CD/DVD capability.
- Our new location does not have room for the huge, bulky TV stand and old tube-TV. Commissioners discussed Kevin's recommendation to acquire a flat screen for wall from gift account (\$499,) if possible. Other components that attached to the old TV unit are still serviceable.
- Four futon-type couches were purchased for group meeting area at \$89 each, Kevin reported that an anonymous donor has offered to pay for these!

Youth Advocate's Report:

- Teen Group: Begins on Sept 12 and is meeting weekly with 11-14 teens on average attending.
- The Banana Splits Group began on Oct. 11 and will run through the end of January, 2012.
- Girl Power Support Group began on Oct. 5 with 13 girls attending each week. (The group is now filled to capacity.)
- Kevin reported that he has reactivated the Youth Commission's Web site at www.dartmouthyouth.com. Kevin served on the Town Web Site Development Committee for two years and the initial idea that we would not need to continue with our own site once all our information was on the Town of Dartmouth site. However, Kevin reports that very few teens, and many adults, stopped accessing our material on the Town's new site because the content is so embedded in other town resources. Our site at DartmouthYouth.com was dormant over the past year but is now reactivated. Kevin plans to keep the information currently on the Town's site but have it "point" over to existing Web Site which we've had for eleven years.
- As encouraged previously, Kevin will also create a Youth Advocate's Facebook Page to help people access our services. (Done! As of 10/15)
- The Family Focus Show on DCTV, which Kevin hosts, will start its second year on Oct. 20, interviewing the Student Resource Officers in the Dartmouth Public Schools.
- **Areas of need:**
 - Donations of snacks, juice, etc, needed.
 - Commissioner(s) to spearhead laptop project and donations for same.

Commissioner's Discussion:

- Commissioners discussed the need to increase awareness within the business community regarding the important services provided by the Youth Commission through the Youth Advocate in combating issues such as drug use and addiction, risk of suicide, abuse and depression among some youth in our community. Commissioners discussed the possibility of seeking donations from area businesses, etc. Nicole offered to make sure that the Youth Commission is listed in 'Homefinder,' a publication used by Realtors, etc.
- Commissioners noted that when the budget crisis required the elimination of our part-time clerk (of 10 hrs. per week) that nearly all of that work fell to Kevin to complete. Commissioners expressed concern that we need to approach the Select Board and Finance Committee and state our case to have this part-time position reinstated. A specific plan needs to be discussed further.

New Business:

- Announcement: Annual Fall Town Meeting, October 18, 2011, at 7:00 PM. Among other business, Consideration of article to revise the Town Charter.

- The Youth Commission, with sadness, received word that due to declining health, Lorraine Gagne is resigning from the Youth Commission effective immediately. The Town Clerk has been notified by the family as well. Lorraine served on the Youth Commission for 27 years. Lorraine will be greatly missed.
- Discussion was held to consider potential applicants to serve on the Youth Commission. Nicole reported that she has been speaking with a Dartmouth resident who expressed interest and will follow up on this.

Signature: _____ Date approved: _____