

Wayland Cares Review Committee

Minutes of September 12, 2013, 6:30-8:00PM
Held in Selectmens' meeting room

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 PM by Chairperson Gail Shapiro. Present were Committee members Gail Shapiro, Leslie Corner and Shirley Jacobson, Selectman Ed Collins, and first one, and then two public citizens observing. Kathryn Lee was absent.

There was a vote to accept the minutes of the two prior meetings: the August 5th meeting minutes were not accepted and Leslie agreed to correct those to review for the next meeting; the minutes of August 12 were accepted as submitted by Katie Lee.

The next agenda item was to hear reports of committee members' first interviews as assigned on August 12.

1. Leslie presented a general report of meetings with Betsey Gavron, Principal of Wayland Middle School and Lieutenant Ruth Bachman, detective in the Wayland Police Department. (Leslie has submitted her report to the Chairperson.)

Both of the interviewees wanted to keep the work of WaylandCares going as the program is excellent and the resources, valuable. In terms of structure,-- though the partnership with the schools is good, it may be an added burden for the schools.

It was suggested by Leslie that we plan more specific questions for future interviews,--adjusting and rephrasing questions and keeping in mind People who have not had direct knowledge of WaylandCares.

2. Shirley gave a written report to the members, which will be revised to give references to those who were quoted. She then gave her report that revealed responses in general indicating a very favorable attitude about WaylandCares. A suggestion was made in the meeting with Dr. Paul Stein for a "community consensus" based on "social Norms". Recommended as structure was an organization administered by the Board of Health(Bowles)

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providing continuity through the school levels K-12 and parent screening and education to address anxiety and/ or denial(Bowles)

The committee followed with discussion about access to the resources and referral sources. Gail suggested that might be through websites and other referral sources, so parents know where to look for help. Though it was noted that many ads and notices were posted of the program and resources for education in the Town Crier especially, it was suggested that people may not notice unless oriented to that sector.

There were also questions repeated of the need for more specifics of how to fund and administer the program. Gail noted former member Bill DeJong's recommendation that it be funded as a 501(c)(3), an idea which Gail thinks well of also, so that autonomy might not be compromised.

3. Gail reported on her interviews with Chief of Police Robert Irving and Chief of the Fire Department Vincent Smith.

Chief Irving is familiar with Wayland Cares, feels it beneficial and worthwhile, and views it as a way for kids to get help before being involved with law enforcement. Chief Irving spoke of the "social host" law that he thinks calls, for education and reinforcement for parents who often tend to advocate for their kids by denial and/or seeking legal advocacy to protect their kids from adjudication.

The Police Chief recommends that the School Department administer the program and cited the SADD and the "Mock Car Crash" as important being on school grounds.

Chief Smith, though unfamiliar with Wayland Cares before the agenda item was in the warrant for Town Meeting in April, 2013, sees results of substance abuse in ambulance calls and feels it should be part of Health Education in the schools.

Selectman Collins spoke of addressing the "social norms" focus, though that was also viewed by two members (Leslie and Shirley) as being already a part of the comprehensive work that has been evolving in Wayland Cares. This includes

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also social norms as well as “wellness fairs” in addition to the original work of identifying needs and intervention as well as even counseling.

It was expressed again that many in the community may not be sufficiently informed about WaylandCares and/or have issues of trust considering that the program was mandated to report to the former Town Administrator who some felt had too much central power in the community. Shirley thinks more positive publicity to inform the WC mission and its success in reducing youth substance abuse may reduce the negative views in the community.

Lastly, the continuing review of the scope of the work of the committee was raised, considering the effect of the resignation of one and perhaps two members of the committee due to other commitments. Selectman Collins reassured members that Selectmen will appoint new members asap.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairwoman at 8:05PM.

Submitted by Shirley Jacobson