

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

September 14, 2009

Minutes

PRESENT: Andy Rosenshine, Oscar Najarian, Nancy Tame, John Badenhausen, Kristin French, Kasey Packer, Rachel Bridge, Allison Shea.

ABSENT: Michelle Grasso

MEETING OPENED/MINUTES REVIEWED

Andy called the meeting to order and asked if anyone had any comments or changes to the June, 2009 meeting minutes. Kristin made a motion to accept the minutes. Nancy seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

WELCOME YOUTH MEMBERS

John welcomed the new youth members. He refreshed the Commission's memory about the Alaska brochure that was distributed in the meeting packet which outlined ways in which groups can fully utilize youth membership and how we could use it to guide us in this new process. One of the recommendations was to allow youth members to open the meeting with questions, issues or items for discussion. The group likes that idea. John commented how happy the Commission is to have all three youth representatives on the Commission to serve as a voice for Westborough youth.

DISCUSSION OF ROLES

John confirmed that the youth members are not legal voting members. They are not legally appointed and are not allowed to vote on legal issues. We did acknowledge that the youth members would still have a strong and valuable voice on the Commission. Alison questioned about the possibility of joining the Commission as an appointed member at the age of 18. John replied that as long as there is an opening, then she could apply after turning 18 and registering to vote. He then detailed the appointment process.

We had a long discussion about the possibility of instituting a mentoring process. Nancy talked about her experience with Mazie and how their program was built around clearly defined goals and milestones. She asked if this was the direction we wanted to go. John thought that we might consider adopting a less formal process and instead match an adult member with a youth member. Youth members would be able to contact their mentor with questions, ideas, etc. Andy and the youth members supported the less formal approach that John suggested. Kristin initially preferred a more formal relationship, but after hearing the other idea agreed that it would be more effective to keep the mentoring relationship less formal. Both Kristin and Nancy agreed that it would be helpful to have a new adult member orientation from the senior members and the youth agreed that they would benefit from an orientation as well. Andy suggested that he and Michelle could split the adult and youth orientation. John proposed that he would collect, when possible, documentation about the background of Commission issues and would email the Annual Report to the youth members to educate them on department activities.

Nancy suggested creating a document that identifies the job description of all Youth Commission members and roles and tasks specifically of youth members, if applicable.

The commission needs to decide 1) the process to mentor new members, and 2) the process for developing job descriptions, tasks, and roles.

DISCUSSION – ALTERNATIVE INCOME SOURCES

As a result of budget process, we are exploring the 3rd party payer system as a source of income. John made a proposal to the Town Manager. The Town Manager gave John the go-ahead to begin contacting insurance companies about enrollment. John has started the application for Blue Cross Blue Shield. John attended a training on automated billing. This process will require a lot of upfront time.

DISCUSSION – CHANGES TO OPEN MEETING LAW

The town lawyer sent a memo regarding Executive Sessions. Employee performance shall be done in an open session and that information created by Board members for the performance review can be made public. Paperwork created by non-Board members is considered personnel and shall not be made public. John described the difference between Open Sessions (open to the public) and Executive Sessions (closed to the public). Also, meetings posted by another agency regarding meeting with the WYC is sufficient in accordance with open meeting regulations. The WYC does not also have to post an announcement.

DISCUSSION – NEW YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBER

Position vacancy is posted on the town Web site and the Westborough News, and also announced at Selectmen meetings

8:45 PM MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – 7:30 PM, Monday, October 5, 2009 (due to Columbus Day)