

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
September 13, 2010
7:30 PM to 8:45 PM

PRESENT: Kristin French, Michelle Grasso, Andy Rosenshine, Judith Tully, Oscar Najarian, Rachel Bridge, Cameron Mattheson, Kasey Packer, Ali Strand

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Doreen Rebh, Administrative Assistant

7:35 PM: MEETING OPENED/MINUTES REVIEWED
Michelle called the meeting to order and the July minutes were reviewed. Kristin made a motion to accept the minutes, Andy seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

7:40 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS
Kasey reported that Homecoming would be next weekend at the High School. She also mentioned that in response to the recent car accidents in town in which several teens were injured, the school would be offering a Drunk Driving Seminar later in the week.

Rachel talked about her ideas on starting a Safe Ride Program in town. There was discussion on the car accidents and the reaction of the school community. It was decided that because the agenda was already so large, discussion on a Safe Ride Program should be put on the agenda for another time.

7:50 PM: REVIEW OF YOUTH COMMISSION DESCRIPTION
John reported that the Board of Selectmen feel it would be useful for each town committee to submit to them a paragraph which would include: a mission statement, the duties of the committee, the commitment level, and the meeting days and times. John explained that he submitted the description that is listed in the Town's Annual Report and asked if anyone would like to change or add to it. Michelle had a few grammatical changes she felt should be made. John agreed to make those changes.

7:55 PM: Michelle wondered if Oscar would briefly share his thoughts on how Hot Summer Nights went this past summer. Oscar thought HSN went well but that attendance could have been better. John reported that in 2009 over 100 kids attended HSN events and this year enrollment was down to 28. All agreed that the drop in interest was due to the lack of bus trips.

Michelle asked about the open Administrative Assistant position in the office and John reported that he'd received over 100 resumes. He's arranged interviews with four applicants so far.

8:00 PM: STRATEGIC PLANNING

There was discussion on the Commission's goal of identifying and seeking out alternative sources of income to continue funding for Hot Summer Nights and the Youth Needs Assessment. John reported that he thought the office could approach the same organizations for HSN funding for next year. Michelle suggested that other places be pursued as well so that there would be funding for bus trips. John suggested the group have a discussion by December on the goals for the Hot Summer Nights program.

Michelle mentioned that she would like to see data collection of clients done on a regular basis. She mentioned the stat report included in the packets each month and wondered if there could be a similar report with information including how many new clients the office had taken on, how many had been discharged, the age of clients, etc. John thought it would be helpful to have a separate discussion on what this data collection process would look like.

There was discussion on the Commission's goal of raising the profile of the YFS Department by regularly publicizing data and successes. John reported that there is something in the papers each month about Youth and Family Services. Judith suggested having information tables set up at local events such as Arts in the Common and the Spring Festival. Kasey suggested having a booth at Homecoming. Ali offered to put something in the High School newspaper.

Kristin offered to type up the key points of the group discussion and email it to everyone. Michelle stated that five major topics seemed to come out of the group discussion: Hot Summer Nights, Data Collection, Needs Assessment, Publicity and Collaborating with other Towns – what we are doing already and what we can do. It was agreed that during the October meeting John would review the funding we had for Hot Summer Nights, and for November, the client data the office collects, and also the publicity we do.

8:45 PM MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Meeting – 7:30 PM, Monday, October 18, 2010