

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
November 8, 2010
7:00 PM to 8:25 PM

PRESENT: Michelle Grasso, Judith Tully, Kasey Packer, Ali Strand, Ritika Lahoty, Andy Rosenshine

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Kristin French, Rachel Bridge, Cameron Mattheson, Oscar Najarian

7:10 PM: MEETING OPENED/OTHER BUSINESS

John noted that since Michelle hadn't arrived yet, the meeting could not officially start. He stated that the group could do the "Other Business" part of the meeting.

Judith explained that the local organization, In Your Shoes, raises funds for emergency relief, such as helping residents pay utility bills. She reminded the group that WYFS will receive 25% of the organization's December 11th fundraiser, "Polar Plunge." (The food pantry receives 25% and In Your Shoes the remaining 50%.) Plungers must be at least 18 years old and pay \$100 (they can get sponsors.) Last year the organization raised \$10,000. Judith said last year's event was fun as the high school band played, there was a bonfire and some corporate-sponsored "plungers" dressed in costumes.

Judith asked Ali to write an article about the "Polar Plunge" for the high school newspaper. She asked if the Youth Commission could commit to work the concession. The group agreed. Judith said the group should plan on baking cookies that can be wrapped individually. Starbucks will provide coffee, tea and hot cocoa. She will email more details as they become available. John, Kasey and Ritika volunteered to bake and work the concession on the day of the event. Michelle, Ali and Andy have commitments on December 11th.

Judith said if the group knew of any town resident in need of assistance, they should contact In Your Shoes. Their website is: <http://www.inyourshoeswestborough.com/>
All info is kept confidential.

7:20 PM: MINUTES REVIEWED

Michelle officially called the meeting to order and the October minutes were reviewed. Andy made a motion to accept the minutes, Judith seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:22 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

Kasey reported that the National Health Survey was conducted at the high school last week. John stated that the results should be available in the spring. There was discussion that some town superintendents are hesitant to make the results public. It was pointed out that the survey results are public documents and should be made public. John reported that the Westborough survey results are more available. He said he asked the Superintendent if WYFS could receive the results earlier than in previous years. The company that compiles the results told John he can receive his own copy of the results from the company.

John reported that he is serving as the community representative on the high school's School Community Council again this year. He is also serving on the Middle School Community Council. He said it is helping him connect with school administrators and it is nice exposure for WYFS. Ritika was just elected to the high school's School Community Council.

7:30 PM FY2012 BUDGET

John handed out revised copies of the FY2012 Budget Summary and Salaries and Wages Request sheets. He explained the previous version was based on 52.4 weeks due to the leap, while the revised version is based on 52.2 weeks (because the extra day falls on a weekend.) He said it was fortunate that Question 3 did not pass (lowering sales tax from 6.25% to 3%) as the result would have been disastrous for towns.

John reported there was no cost of living increase last year and anticipates none for this year. He explained that Eileen and Cathy are budgeted to receive step increases on their anniversary dates but that he and Betheda have both reached their step max and as a result their salaries will remain the same.

Ritika asked if money is donated for the Hot Summer Nights program has to be used specifically for that program. John said yes and if YFS doesn't raise enough money to fund Hot Summer Nights, then the program will be cancelled and any money donated for HSN will have to be returned. To avoid losing donated money, John asks that any donations be made to YFS, rather than a specific program. Andy suggested that of any money raised, a percentage of the funds go into a rainy day fund that could be used to run programs in the future. There is currently \$4,000-\$5,000 in YFS gift account. Michelle said it would be nice to keep \$10,000 in the account.

Michelle called for a motion to accept the revised FY2012 budget. Andy made a motion, Judith seconded it, and the budget was accepted unanimously.

8:15 PM OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle reminded the group that the youth commission is short one member. Judith said it has been posted in the Westborough News for several weeks and in the Globe as well.

Michelle said that when officers are elected, she is willing to revisit her role on the Youth Commission, as her life is very busy. John said we can schedule elections for the next meeting. Michelle suggested getting a new member and then elect officers, probably sometime in the spring.

At last year's December meeting, members brought donations to the Holiday Store. John suggested that the Holiday Store always needs items for teens, such as sweatshirts, gift cards, iTunes, and jewelry. Michelle said members should bring items for teens for the Holiday Store. John suggested wrapping paper and tape are possible donations as well.

8:25 PM MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, December 13, 2010, 7:30 PM