

**YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office  
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building  
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA  
**January 10, 2011**  
**7:30 PM to 8:40 PM**

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

**WYFS:** John Badenhause, Director  
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

**ABSENT:** Ritika Lahoty, Ali Strand

**7:31 PM: MEETING OPENED/ MINUTES REVIEWED**

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

**7:33 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS**

The youth members reported that mid-term exams are approaching, and that there are newly-appointed student ambassadors to welcome new students. The high school administration is putting together a panel to revise the school's mission statement and core values, needed for accreditation in 2013. A drunk driving assembly is scheduled for the spring with the possibility of a mock disaster. The High School will host a family-friendly Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium.

There will be a discussion of underage drinking at St. Luke's on Wednesday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Michelle said that similar programs are mandatory for parents to attend at other schools. Judith said Westborough has a similar program, but it isn't strictly enforced, except for high school athletes and those in the Fine Arts Department.

**7:40 PM: YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

John said the survey was sent out in June and September of 2008 to gather perceptions of high school students about risky behavior. The group discussed that since the data is two years old, do we want newer data and possibly more students involved. Michelle said there is good data in the survey and we should get on the Selectmen's agenda to get the information out there. There was discussion about paring down the survey data to an executive summary. John and Michelle will work on creating an executive summary.

The group discussed certain needs identified in the survey, including the lack of fields available for casual use to Westborough teens. The youth members said many

Westborough teens use Ellsworth McAfee Park on Route 135 in Northborough because kids aren't kicked off the field, as happens on Westborough fields. Also discussed was drinking and drug use exacerbated by the lack of places for kids to go. Places like Panera and the Knights of Columbus (where local kids' bands play) are often crowded.

John reported that the State identified the former Lyman School property as surplus land and asked the Town of Westborough if they had use for it. The group decided the property wasn't convenient for use and that the Youth Commission didn't have the resources to manage it.

The group discussed ways to inform the community about the Youth Needs Assessment data, including a presentation of the data to the Finance Committee and the Selectmen with possible solutions, and hosting a booth at the Rotary Club's Springfest (April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 1st.) John will contact Gerry Gross of the Rotary about possibly reserving a space.

Andy reminded everyone that we should advertise for a new Youth Commission member.

**8:22 PM: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS –  
SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (John, Judith, Kristen)**

Judith said one of the goals is to have Hot Summer Nights flyers and info be seen everywhere for a period of about six weeks. She said fundraising letters will be sent to civic organizations.

Judith presented a draft of the flyer that she would like the group to mail/deliver to everyone they know. She said school organizations should be approached with the idea that this is a "youth for local youth" fundraiser.

John reported that HSN has received \$500 from the Country Club, \$500 from the Cultural Council, \$2500 from In Your Shoes and \$500 from Tufts University. He also sent a letter requesting support to Avidia Bank. Judith suggested we put something on Westborough Cable TV. The kids said they know someone who works there and would make contact. It was suggested that every Youth Commission members' name be included on out-going fundraising letters. It was also suggested that Ali be asked to write an article about "Buy A Bus" and that Kasey would be backup.

Michelle thanked the sub-committee for their hard work. At the next meeting the group will discuss raising the profile of the WYFS Department and review the executive summary.

**8:40 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED**

**NEXT MEETING – Monday, February 7, 7:30 PM**