

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
December 10, 2012
7:34 PM to 8:55 PM

PRESENT: Michelle Grasso, Judith Tully, Andy Rosenshine, Patricia Ainsleigh, Jack Chuma, Casey Collins, Pranit Lahoty, Matt Murch and Tim Dodd.

ABSENT: Christine Anthony and Oscar Najarian.

WYFS: John Badenhausen, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:22 PM: MEETING OPENED

Michelle called the meeting to order.

The Group continued the discussion from the last meeting (November) concerning the possibility of changing the voting age limit for YC members so the youth members can vote. Some members want to push for the youth members to be voting members, instead of associate members, because their current status is that of associate members. Matt discussed a paper he is writing that states everyone should have the right to vote.

~~Judith said the youth members have already been vetted so they should not have to go through that process again.~~

John said there is no restriction in town bylaws of who can be a member of an appointed board, while members of an elected board must be registered voters. John said he is unsure where it is specified that the YC is composed of five members, but that the YC was created by an act of Town Meeting, so if the group wants to increase the number of members, it will probably have to be brought before Town Meeting. It was suggested that wording be added to the bylaws that the youth members will be nominated by the YC.

Tim met with the Board of Selectmen and mentioned possible changes to the bylaws.

If there is no language in the bylaws stipulating age limits, youth members can become voting members by increasing the number of YC members. John pointed out that if the number of members increases, the number needed for a quorum increases. Also, a bylaw change should specify a specific number of spots on the YC be for youth members.

The group supports the increase in the number of YC members, and they agree that the Board of Selectmen and the public needs to be aware of it before Town Meeting in March. Michelle suggested approaching the Board of Selectmen in January with this bylaw change and then bring it to Town Meeting in March.

Michelle made a motion to put a proposal together and go before the Board of Selectmen in January to ask about increasing the number of Youth Commission members. Judith seconded the motion.

The warrant article would expand the number of Youth Commission members from five to nine, four of which are youth members: high school juniors or seniors or age equivalent. The four youth member positions are for 2-year terms and all applications and letters of intent for these positions will be forwarded to the Youth Commission. There should be language explaining how to fill a position should a member drop out. The other five positions will be for 3-year terms.

John will consult with Town Counsel to have the warrant article wording ready in January.

Michelle will work on the wording of the proposal and email it to all YC members. The YC will meet on January 7th, instead of January 14th in order to be ready to go before the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:00PM.

8:55 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, January 7, 2012 at 7:30 PM
