

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
March 12, 2012
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

PRESENT: Michelle Grasso, Judith Tully, Christine Anthony, Patricia Ainsleigh, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Andy Rosenshine, Casey Collins, Cameron Mattheson, Ritika Lahoty, Ali Strand

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:30 PM: MEETING OPENED/ MINUTES REVIEWED

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

7:35 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

No youth members were present, however, Christine reported that Westborough hosted basketball tournaments (for 6th-8th graders) at the High School and the events have been well run.

7:36 PM: SELECTMAN TIM DODD AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Tim Dodd was not able to attend the meeting, but did send a letter to John along with a "Five Year Action Plan" pertaining to the Open Space Plan. The Plan will be voted on at Town Meeting and Tim is looking for input.

The group discussed some of the issues surrounding Open Space, such as: questions as to whether or not the Veteran's Freedom Park is open for pick-up games and the fact that the Rogers Road playground is so isolated that not many people use it.

John reminded everyone that Town Meeting is this Saturday, March 17, starting at 1:00 p.m. with the Special Town Meeting convening at 7:00 p.m.

7:48 PM: REVIEW OF REVISED WYFS STRATEGIC PLAN

Michelle passed out the revised WYFS Strategic Plan. As discussed at last month's meeting, **Goal 1** will ensure ongoing funding for *Hot Summer Nights*. **Goal 2** will ensure that WYFS programs, services and events are continually publicized to keep WYFS in the public eye and that the Town liaisons are invited annually to meetings and events.

Goal 3 has been changed from “Needs Assessment” to “**Provide advocacy for services and issues affecting youth and families in Westborough.**”

The group discussed the fact they don’t want to alienate people, so any advocacy undertaken by the Youth Commission should steer clear of issues that might be seen as too political. It was decided that at next month’s meeting the group would discuss possible topics for Youth Commission advocacy.

After discussion, it was decided to add the word “education” to **Goal 3**, so it would read: “**Provide advocacy and education for services and issues affecting youth and families in Westborough.**”

Goal 4 was edited to read: “**Collaborate with schools, town departments, and neighboring communities to identify unmet youth needs and offer programs to fill the gap.**” The goal opens the door to creating a new program. Michelle suggested that the group devote some time to discussing Goals 3 & 4 at next month’s meeting.

8:15 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

John said the YC will need to review the new job descriptions put together by HR at next month’s meeting. He will email/mail a copy of them to YC members to read ahead of time.

The group discussed the construction of the new Recreation Center coming up for a vote at Town Meeting this coming Saturday. Since the current plans show a basketball court and limited meeting and office space, the group thought a Recreation Center should also have places for kids to gather for non-sport activities. It was suggested that the YC members could add their input to the discussion at the upcoming Town Meeting.

8:30 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM