

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
October 7, 2013
7:34 PM to 8:35 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christine Anthony, Jack Chuma, Pranit Lahoty, Andy Rosenshine, Judith Tully, Corbin Whitaker, Meredith Wolpert.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Oscar Najarian, Robert Stout, and Lauren Schiffman

WYFS:

John Badenhausen, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT:

Patricia Ainsleigh

7:34 PM: MEETING OPENED

Andy called the meeting to order. The September 2013 minutes were reviewed. Judith made a motion to accept the minutes, Meredith seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously. Andy started member introductions for the benefit of our guest Lauren Schiffman.

7:37 PM: YOUTH REPORT

This weekend is Homecoming and many school groups and clubs are involved. The school workload has been increasing since September. PSATs are coming up. Seniors are working to get recommendations because some college application deadlines are a week away.

Christine asked if the YC should get an update on what's happening in the Middle School. John said he would ask the Superintendent how we can go about getting input from the lower grades. He will also get the number of students in each of the grades. It was suggested that the schools' guidance counselors might be a good source of what is going on in schools.

7:46 PM: INTERVIEW WITH YC CANDIDATE LAUREN SCHIFFMAN

The current YC members spoke about their background and experience and why they became involved in the YC.

Lauren is a parent and the Director of Communications for Century Health Systems. She said she wanted to get involved in town and saw that the YC works on issues that interest her. She asked how the YC makes a difference and the members said the youth members offer a first-hand account of what is happening in the school and what is worrying high school students. Since the YC youth members are involved in different activities/sports/clubs from one another, they offer a good cross-section of the student population.

John explained the relationship of the YC to the Youth and Family Services Dept.: The YC is the board of directors overseeing YFS. The YC members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen

to advocate for the needs of youth in Westborough. YFS provides counseling services and education to Westborough residents and creates a safety net for the neediest people in town. The YFS Department can be a first contact point for mental health services, an entryway to services that Westborough youth can access easily.

One of the challenges for the YC is to make sure the community is aware of its existence. News releases are regularly sent to online media, posted on Facebook, posted in our newsletter and on our website.

8:25 PM: Judith made a motion to recommend Lauren Schiffman be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to the Youth Commission. Christine seconded the motion.

8:26 PM: DISCUSSION:

The members said Lauren's PR and marketing skills would be beneficial to the YC and its goal of promoting awareness in the community.

Andy called for a vote of whether to recommend Lauren Schiffman be appointed by the Board of Selectmen as a member of the Youth Commission.

7 votes in the affirmative

0 votes in the negative

The Motion passed unanimously.

John will contact the Selectmen's Office with the outcome. Then he will contact Lauren with the meeting date when she will appear before the Board of Selectmen. Once appointed by the Board of Selectmen, she will be sworn in.

8:30 PM: OTHER BUSINESS:

Judith reported that *In Your Shoes* will hold their Polar Plunge fundraiser once again on December 8th. She suggested that the YC members might be willing to help with the concession stand. There will be more details to come.

8:35 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, November 4th 2013 at 7:30 PM