

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
January 7, 2013
7:36 PM to 8:31 PM

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

ABSENT: Christine Anthony.

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
Cathy Cairns, Administrative Assistant

7:36 PM: MEETING OPENED

Michelle called the meeting to order. The November 2012 and December 2012 minutes were reviewed. Andy made a motion to accept the minutes, Judith seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:38 PM: REPORT FROM YOUTH MEMBERS

Mind reader Eric Dittelman appeared at the high school as a fundraiser. There was an altercation between fans at a school hockey game. School officials asked athletes to attend the games of other school sports to show support.
Mr. Smith, High School Principal, is leaving this year.
The youth members reported it is difficult to arrange time to speak with their teachers because the teachers are having numerous accreditation meetings.

7:45 PM: DISCUSS TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

At the December 10th 2012 meeting, 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 that motion, but no vote was taken. Michelle repeated her motion, Judith seconded, and the group voted unanimously to put together the proposal and go before the Board of Selectmen to ask about increasing the number of Youth Commission members.

John reported that a 1976 Town Meeting article established the Youth Commission as a nine member commission. In 1977, the YC conducted a survey of grades 7-12. In 1978, the YC identified a building at Lyman School as a possible site for a recreation center, but because of issues with the State, they were not able to move forward with a possible proposal. The YC did not meet for five years. In 1983, the same Town Meeting article established the YC as a nine-member commission. In 1993, a Town Meeting article reduced the number of YC members from nine to five.

John wrote up a new article and submitted it on December 29, 2012 to the Town Manager. This article states:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of members of the Youth Commission established by Article 9 of the 1983 Annual Town Meeting to nine (9) members, four (4) of whom will be high school juniors or high school seniors or of the equivalent ages, and will have overlapping 2 year terms, or take any action thereon.

After some discussion, the group decided to add additional wording:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of members of the Youth Commission established by Article 9 of the 1983 Annual Town Meeting from five (5) members with overlapping three (3) year terms to nine (9) members, four (4) of whom will be high school juniors or high school seniors or of the equivalent ages, and who will have overlapping 2 year terms, or take any action thereon.

Judith made a motion to accept the updated article as written. Andy seconded the motion, and the group voted to unanimously accept the article as written.

The second article states:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purpose of receiving and expending funds for youth activities by the Youth and Family Services Department. Receipts from deposits for youth activities will be deposited into this revolving account, and expenditures not to exceed the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the fiscal year 2013 may be made by the Youth and Family Services Department, or to take any action thereon.

John explained that the revolving fund allows money to come in and go out of the department for such activities as Babysitting classes and *Hot Summer Nights*, whereas the department budget, payroll and bills come out of the general fund. He said this article must be voted on yearly to reestablish the revolving fund.

Andy made a motion to accept the wording of the article reestablishing the revolving fund, Michelle seconded the motion, and the group unanimously voted to accept the article as written.

The Youth Commission members will appear before the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:05 PM. Michelle will speak and explain the article requesting the number increase of the YC members.

Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, where someone from the YC will present the article at the meeting.

8:31 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:30 PM