

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
 Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
 Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
 45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
November 10, 2014
7:32 PM to 8:35 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Ainsleigh, Arpita Joyce, Lauren Schiffman, Gerard Sockol, Judith Tully, Corbin Whitaker.

YOUTH COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

Katherine Burbank,

ABSENT: Daniel Moon, Oscar Najarian, Jorge Nario, Robert Stout, Meredith Wolpert

GUEST: Tim Barton, Jenni Lencioni

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
 Cathy Cairns, Admin. Asst.
 Stephanie Camille – WYFS Clinical Intern

7:32 PM: YOUTH REPORT

The students had their first What's Up Tonight meeting with Taylor. They brainstormed for ideas and decided on a Madden Tournament. Admission will be \$5.00 and it will be held in a gym or maybe in Room 23 in Forbes Building. There will be a variety of video games available for kids to use. A possible date is December 14, so the Patriot's Game can be on in the room as well. Video game systems will have to be brought in for the event. There will be a Facebook page created for WUT. Taylor suggested passing out cookies at school if kids "Like" the WUT Facebook page to boost the number of followers.. There is some concern as to how to get out the info about WUT to kids not at Westborough high School. The kids said spreading the word via social media is the best way to publicize the program, and ask WHS students to pass the word to friends not at WHS.

November 23 is the Day of Thanksgiving where high school students volunteer to do community service such as leaf raking. Last year was the first year of the event and now it has gone school-wide.

Students are starting to receive college acceptances.

7:42 PM: MEETING OPENED

Quorum achieved. Judith called the meeting to order. The October 2014 minutes were reviewed. Corbin made a motion to accept the minutes, Lauren seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:50 PM INTERVIEW WITH YC CANDIDATE JENNI LENCIONI

YC members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds and what drew them to joining the YC.

Jenni Lencioni spoke about her background: she was the Clinical Coordinator at Shrewsbury Youth and Family and now works in the Shrewsbury Middle School. She has two young boys and she is active in the Westborough Newcomers Club.

John explained the meeting schedule and the members said it is a very manageable position. Westborough committee members can now participate in meetings via phone or Skype up to three times per year.

John said there are two open adult seats on the YC and filling those positions will make achieving a quorum easier.

He said the next step is for Jenni to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen about her interest in joining the Youth Commission, and to copy John. Then the Bof S will schedule a brief interview with her and then appoint her.

7:58 PM: FY2016 BUDGET

John explained that Department Budgets include descriptions of what the Department does, its recent accomplishments, and what it plans to do in the future.

The Budget is divided into two items: Salaries & Wages and Expenses.

Salaries and Wages: John went over the different items in each section, noting the change to the Youth Activities Coordinator position. The FY16 Budget requests that the hours for that position be increased from 400 to 500 hours, which would increase the WUT position's hours from 125 to about 225.

All positions have a step or grade, based on the number of years employed. John, Betheda and Eileen are all at Step 7; Cathy is at 4.

When the new HSN coordinator is hired for next summer, that person will begin at Step 1.

Expenses: John said the Town Manager wanted a level budget so there were no increases in department spending.

There have not been any expenses accrued for the WUT program as of yet. Those expenses will possibly be taken out of the revolving account. This account is authorized every year at Town Meeting. The funds in this account stay with the department.

Because of time constraints, John delivered the budget to the Town Manager last Friday with the understanding that the YC would vote on it at the November meeting. John said we will also submit an article for Town Meeting asking for the increase in hours (from 400 to 500 hours) for the Youth Activities Coordinator position.

Corbin made a motion to accept the FY2016 Budget as presented. Judith seconded the motion, and the budget was unanimously accepted.

8:16 PM: CHARTER REVIEW

All Massachusetts towns have a Town Charter that describes how the Town and its departments are organized. It is reviewed periodically. During the previous Charter Review, the Town Coordinator became known as the Town Manager, which is a stronger position.

The Board of Selectmen formed the current Charter Review Committee last spring with the goal of finding ways to strengthen the Town Manager position. The committee has been meeting with the department heads; John met with them in September.

Currently, John reports to the YC and the YC reports to the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager proposes that all department heads report to him. John told the committee he is happy with the current setup. Other departments such as Planning also prefer the current situation.

Any changes recommended by the Charter Review Committee will have to go to Town Meeting.

The Committee suggested that any YFS Director Search Committee would be comprised of two YC members and two department heads. The YC members were concerned that members of the search committee should be knowledgeable about HIPPA laws and mental health issues.

The YC will send a letter to the Charter Review Committee expressing concerns about the YFS Director evaluation process and hiring search, and suggest that YC members and YFS staff be involved in the search and evaluation processes.

Judith volunteered to draft a letter for the next meeting.

8:30 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

The December 8th meeting will be the holiday meeting. Members agreed to have a Yankee Swap (bring a gift no more than \$10 if you want to participate) and bring treats to share with the group. We will meet at 7:00 PM in order to have time to socialize.

8:35 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – December 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM.