

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
 Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
 Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
 45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
March 9, 2015
7:33 PM to 9:00 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Barton, Arpita Joyce, Jennifer Lencioni, Judith Tully, Patricia Ainsleigh, Meredith Wolpert

YOUTH COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

Katherine Burbank, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Gerad Sockol, Jorge Nario, Lauren Schiffman, Robert Stout, Corbin Whitaker, Daniel Moon,

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

7:33 PM: MEETING OPENED

Judith called the meeting to order. The January 2015 minutes were reviewed. Jenni made a motion to accept the minutes, Patricia seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:34 PM: YOUTH REPORT

Arpita was in the High School's show, "Pippin."
 Spring sports are starting up and the spring play tryouts are coming up.
 Student Council members are traveling to Hyannis for a leadership conference.
 National Honor Society letters have gone out.
 String Fest concert is coming up.

7:34 PM: BUDGET FY16

Fin Comm put out their recommendations and they proposed our original budget amount of \$186,074.00 which included funding of our extra WUT 100 hours. The Town Manager's budget did not include funding for the extra 100 hours. The Town Manager didn't add the increase the number of available hours in the warrant because John had not spoken to the Personnel Board about the article before the deadline.
 John later spoke with the Personnel Board about the increase and they approved it. Because the increase in hours didn't make it on the warrant, YFS can only fund the Activities Coordinator position for 400 hours, not 500. Hopefully, the Personnel Board can propose the increase in hours for the Fall Town Meeting warrant and thus fund the position for the extra hours.

The group discussed how it is possible that any resident present at Town Meeting can propose a different budget, such as cutting funding for the YFS Dept. The higher budget amount will be voted on first and if that passes, then any lower proposals will not be voted on.

Judith emailed YFS's Selectmen and Fin Comm representative, Tim Dodd and Lisa Blazejewski, informing them of the ethics commission complaint and asking them to work with the YC and the YFS Dept.

Judith sent out her own separate personal email to members of the community about the possibility of the YFS Dept. being unfunded and she received many responses—all positive. One supporter suggested contacting area counselors and asking them to write letters explaining how YFS counselors do not take clients from them but in fact serve clients that they would not take on because they don't accept Mass Health.

Someone suggested that the committee being formed should have at least one person familiar with medical/mental health profession and the billing practices.

It was also brought up that John's article is similar to the letter the Superintendent sends out every year asking for town residents to support the school's budget items.

John asked that as many YC members as possible attend Town Meeting to answer questions about the department should they come up.

Judith said that after Town Meeting, we need to create a strategic plan to ensure the committee receives all the necessary information to make informed recommendations. The Town Manager wants the committee to make its recommendations in time for the Fall Town Meeting which is in mid-October.

John said he has received emails and calls from clients who are willing to talk about their experience with YFS.

8:10 PM: WHAT'S UP TONIGHT?

The event at Laser Craze was successful. There were 15 kids in attendance. The kids did all of the publicity. At the previous WUT meeting, every member brought a friend and they all brainstormed for possible events and this created a lot of enthusiasm. At the last WUT meeting at Panera there were only two kids.

Each member is researching different events and venues.

Some suggested that the YMCA may have been a problem for some students.

8:17 PM: VOTER REGISTRATION

Daniel was not present so the discussion was table. Judith suggested that YC members get the word out for eligible High School students to register to vote.

8:19 PM: OTHER BUSINESS

The WHS Librarian wants to partner with WYFS on a grant with a theme of mental health. The High School Outreach Club wants to do a walk to raise funds for local charities.

In Your Shoes Westborough (raises funds for emergency needs) will host a Casino Night on March 21 to raise money for local veterans and their families.

8:21 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – April 13th at 7:30 PM.