

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
 Westborough Youth and Family Services Office
 Room 21, Forbes Municipal Building
 45 West Main Street, Westborough, MA
May 11, 2015
7:39 PM to 9:27 PM

YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Barton, Jennifer Lencioni, Judith Tully, Gerad Sockol, Corbin Whitaker, Arpita Joyce,
 Jorge Nario, Meredith Wolpert, Robert Stout, Daniel Moon,

YOUTH COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS PRESENT: Katherine Burbank, Oscar Najarian

ABSENT: Patricia Ainsleigh, Lauren Schiffman,

WYFS: John Badenhause, Director
 Cathy Cairns, Admin. Asst.

7:39 PM: MEETING OPENED

Judith called the meeting to order. The April 2015 minutes were reviewed. Meredith made a motion to accept the minutes, Arpita seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

7:40 PM: YOUTH REPORT

AP exams are happening now.
 Mr. WHS is coming up.
 Graduation is on June 6.
 Corbin said his work on the YC helped him get into the University of Rochester.
 Meredith will be studying business at Georgia Institute of Technology.
 Robert will be studying business at the University of Michigan.
 Gerad will be studying business at Northeastern University.

7:45 PM: YC CANDIDATES

John explained the YC appointment process and that the Board of Selectmen have the final decision.
 The current YC members introduced themselves and spoke about their experience and why they wanted to join the YC. Many had an interest in town government and wanted to volunteer and help their community.
 They spoke about creating the What's Up Tonight program that offered high school teens substance-free after hours activities. They said they enjoyed being a part of the interview process for the program coordinator, and they put together ideas for next year's programs. They also said that the candidates should be willing to put in extra time, above the YC meetings, to work on the WUT program.
 They said their time on the YC was a real learning experience and gave them an inside view of town politics. They said they felt independent and that their voices mattered.

The seven YC candidates introduced themselves: Natalie Baillargeon, Paris Ghazi, Wonjae Jang, Evan Frye, Luara El-Dine, Mridhu Khanna, and Campbell Brown. Many heard about the YC from their sophomore class social studies teacher Ms. Papetti, others saw it advertised online.

The YC members asked the candidates if they had ideas or issues they wanted to work on if they became members of the YC. Some candidates said they wanted to help continue the WUT program; others said they wanted to help students lessen their stress by having alumni come back to speak about their college experiences to high school students and help them combat high school stress. Others suggested helping students start the college process sooner if they prefer, rather than waiting until junior year.

John said he will forward the candidates' letters of interest to the Board of Selectmen, who will then interview the candidates at a BofS meeting in June. There are only two voting youth positions open but the BofS may appoint, as they did last year, the remaining candidates as Associate Members of the YC. He also said that YC members cannot miss more than 3 meetings per year.

The candidates left the meeting and the group discussed their thoughts.

8:35 PM: 2015 SERVICE LEVEL STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Town Manager has not appointed the committee as of yet. Applicants are being interviewed this week.

On behalf of the YC, Judith has called and emailed the Town manager and the BofS and no one has gotten back to her. We suggested two options for fighting for the YFS Dept. Option one is to have an open meeting where supporters can come and learn what is happening and what they can do to prevent the defunding of YFS. The second option is to formulate a petition then present that to the BofS.

There is concern because the BofS has been silent in publicly supporting YFS.

The group decided to form a petition and to send it out to contacts in various town groups/organizations in order to apply pressure to the BofS.

9:27 PM: MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING – June 8th at 7:30 PM.