

**MEETING MINUTES
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
6:30 P.M., EAST GRANBY FARMS**

Members present: Bob Ravens-Seger, Josette Lumbruno, Erin Russell, Jonathan Ciottone, Angela Ciottone. Staff present: Mason Williams, Sandy Yost

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.
2. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.
3. Correspondence – 5/21/20 from Christine Gallagher, Town Clerk stating students were not full members, could not vote, and that we could not meet. 5/27/20 from Christine Gallagher, Town Clerk, stating police officer does not count on a the 7 member board so there was a vacancy, 6/15/20 from Jim Hayden, First Selectman, stating student members can vote and count towards quorum and suggesting a formal change in the status of the police officer which he would support.
4. Review of Minutes – Bob moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 2020.
Seconded by Erin. Unanimously approved.
5. Additions To Agenda - None
6. Old Business
 - Programming – Boys’ Council and Girls’ Circle presently running, and a camp is being organized for a summer program.
 - YAC Applications – Decisions were made by the subcommittee on the applications with input on interviews held from Mason and Bob. Although we would have liked to accept everyone, the staff to student ratio necessitated being unable to accept all student applicants this year. Acceptance letters have been mailed. Rejection letters to be mailed.

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7. New Business

- YAS MS/HS Update – the HS YAC is giving gifts to their departing senior members. There will be no end of year get together due to COVID-19. Team building in the fall lacks a clear direction during these circumstances.
- Programming additions – Sandy reported that grant writing is underway for the Esteem Program, Project Graduation and other youth programming. Discussed fresh ideas for programming. Josette will work with Mason about coordinating a Town Meditation Day to help with the stresses associated with the present times. The possibility was discussed about offering it to youth during finals. A therapy dog to visit students at school during finals was also discussed. A vaping program was also discussed by Sandy. Erin pointed out that the school already had a speaker at the High School on this topic. We will continue to discuss other options.
- Bylaws – Amendments to the bylaws were discussed. Angela will prepare and circulate changes in the bylaws voted on below prior to the next meeting to bring to the BOS.
- Board Composition/Action – Angela spoke with the CYSA and the governing agency. CYSA indicated that the Commission would decide in their bylaws whether to make a student a full member. The governing agency indicated that different municipalities handle it different ways, and that the statute, legislative history, and regulations were silent on the matter. Because student members are not specifically excluded from full membership, students on the Commission on Youth Services in East Granby have a full vote and count towards quorum which was always the intent

- of the Board as noted by Bob. Preparations were being made to challenge the Town Clerk's position through the APA, however, she secured a legal opinion from the Town Attorney who agreed with the Board's position and the issue is now moot.
- Discussion was held on the police officer's membership on the board, and the membership requirement in the grant application, noting the board had historically counted the officer as a non-voting member of the 7 member board in prior years without issue. All members present were in agreement that an officer was intended to be a non-voting member of the 7 member board required by the governing agency. Further, all agreed that the officer should have a voice on the board of the Commission on Youth Services, and that nevertheless there was no vacancy on the board as evidenced historically. Bob motioned to have any officer appointed to the board to be given a full vote as a member of the board per a change to the bylaw which would rebut any further challenges or waste of Town resources on the issue. Jonathan seconded. Unanimously approved.

8. Promotion

- Update Facebook/website – Mason has been reaching out to Eugenia for the Facebook credentials so that programming can be posted with no success. Mason will rebuild the Facebook page.
- School District Website – Mason has had success in posting flyers to the page dedicated to Youth Services on the school website.
- Lets Talk Turkey – Mason will work with Josette to come up with a flyer for the town meditation program. The deadline for submission was relayed as 8/1/20.

- Upcoming Events – Town meditation program TBD/YSB camp offerings.
9. Membership – Discussion was held on members with chronic absences. Angela will reach out to absent member to see whether she still wants to participate or whether she would like to resign. Discussion was held on changes to the bylaws for absences. Bob motioned to create a bylaw which allowed the board to remove a member with 3 consecutive unexcused absences. Seconded by Jonathan. Unanimously approved.
 10. Public Comment – None.
 11. Adjournment – Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Erin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ciottone, Chair

Next Meeting: July 20, 2020