

## YOUTH COMMISSION MINUTES

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**Town Hall, Conference Room B**

**63 Main Street, Northborough, MA 01532**

### **Attendance:**

Board Members: Gretchen Bean, Sherry Clark, Joan Clementi, Gily Schneider-Nachum, Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor, Sandy Scott and Erica Ziegler

Selectman Liaison: Kristen Wixted

Student Visitor: Landon Jorgensen

Staff Members: June David-Fors, LICSW Director

**1. Call Meeting to Order:** Motion by Gily Schneider-Nachum at 7:12, seconded by Sandy Scott

**2. Date of Next Meeting:** February 16, 2023

**3. Introduction of New Committee Member:** Erica Ziegler

**4. Review of Minutes:** October 6, 2022

- Motion by Gretchen Bean to vote on minutes, seconded by Gily Schneider-Nachum; minutes are approved with suggested changes made by Joan Clementi
- Motion by Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor to vote on revised minutes, seconded by Sandy Scott; majority votes in favor of accepting the revised minutes

**5. Director's Report:**

- June reported on her attendance at the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Meeting. June was especially inspired by the opening remarks of our new Governor, Maura Healey, who pointed out that Massachusetts is the first to have a female Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- June stated that the Collins Center has been hired to do an Organizational Review of Family & Youth Services. The purpose is to determine the staffing needs and make recommendations based on the findings. June stated that the consultant will reach out to Board Members for their input.
- June announced John Coderre, Town Administrator, will be accepting a position in another town.

**6. Chair Report, Sherry Clark:**

Sherry suggested the Commission take a vote regarding the submission of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Application to Selectmen. Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor stated that she would like to wait for the consultant's report before submitting the funding request. Gily Schneider-Nachum motioned to send the request to the Selectmen; six members were in favor, and one was opposed. The motion passes.

Sherry discussed concern about recent overdoses of individuals in their 20's and 30's. Discussion ensued about what the Department and Youth Commission could do to address these issues.

## **7. Board Members:**

There was discussions about programming ideas brought up by Board Members

- Erica Ziegler stated that she is involved in a 6-week resiliency training course for students; she will get more information to share with the Commission.
- Guest Mary Ellen Duggan informed the Commission that the week of May 1-5, 2023, will be a wellness week in Town, with a Wellness Fair on Saturday. There is also free Narcan Training available to the public.
- Be Well Northborough will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual event on the last day of the school year. Last year the Department and INTERFACE shared a table. This would be a good opportunity for the Commission to have a presence.
- Gretchen Bean asked if there is any support in Town for new mothers? Discussion ensued about offering a parent support group and providing childcare as this can be a barrier for some parents.
- Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor presented the possibility of a support group for people caring for elderly people.
- There was discussion about several current programs offered in the schools. In the past there was a bullying prevention program at the Middle School that was well received. Is this something that can be offered in the future?
- Joan Clementi presented the idea of asking a DECA teacher at ARHS to help with some ideas for a project to support the mental health needs of students. Landon Jorgensen said that he could assist with this.
- Another need that was discussed was for after school activities for middle school students. This led to a discussion about the need for a teen center in Town.

## **8. Adjourn:** Sandy Scott motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:30; Gretchen Bean 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.