

Town of East Haven, CT
Youth Services Commission Minutes
November 18, 2009; Town of East Haven Beach House, Cosey
Beach Avenue; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Robert Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos, Mary Varunes

Commissioners Absent: Mary Cofrancesco,

Non-Commissioners present: Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the September 9, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 9, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Mary Varunes made a Motion to accept September 9, 2009 minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Rob Fucci.

Agenda Item-Update on Teen Center Facility

Since the September 2009 Youth Service Commission meeting a special Town Council meeting was held on October 14, 2009 for the approval to enter into a lease with Mike Schafer, who is the owner of the property that the Town will be leasing for the new Teen Center. Commissioners Camera, D'Amato, Varunes, CJ Cofrancesco and Licata were in attendance at this special Town meeting to show their support for the new Teen Center Facility. The commissioners and others in the audience were very supportive of the Teen Center program. Financial questions were answered and the Town Council voted unanimously to enter into a lease for the new Teen

Center space. Mr. Petrucelli and Commissioner Licata met with Mr. Schaefer on November 11, 2009 to discuss the lease. Mr. Schaefer requested some additions to the lease. The lease is currently with town attorney Cofrancesco for updating. Mr. Petrucelli and Commissioner Licata did receive a letter from the Mayor's office to Attorney Cofrancesco requesting that changes to the lease be made. As part of this move the Teen Center program will now have its own liability insurance policy.

Public Works will be responsible for setting up the new teen center space. The plan is also to involve interested East Haven residents both adults and teens in creating the inside of the new space. Commissioner Licata mentioned that the Mayor's office has a list of high school students that are in need of community service hours in order to graduate this coming year and would like to help with the new facility. Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that once the lease is signed he would like all commissioners to take a tour of new facility and to put together some ideas for a new floor plan as well. Mr. Petrucelli would like to contact the New Haven Register and Courier for some positive publicity as well as looking for some donations from local merchants. Commissioner Recinos would like to get the High School students involved with the state of the art program to design a mural for the new teen center. Commissioner Recinos would like to have ETV record the teen center from start to finish as it evolves. The students could record and edit with the help of ETV. Commissioners Camera, Recinos and Kuzma thought it would be a nice idea to have the students design a logo and sign for the new center. The idea of a grand opening and open house for the new Teen Center was discussed. With the new space the hope is to be able to attract high school students to events. The Teen Center is open at the old high school and has a solid start to the season with two events to date.

Agenda Item- Update on the ETV Project-

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco and Alec Palmer, Patrick Madley and Jerry Gagliardi interviewed Mayor April CaponeAlmon and Republican challenger John Finkle before the November 3, 2009 election. Mayor Capone-Almon and John Finkle both were asked a series of questions that the students put together. The next ETV project would be the taping and editing of the progress of the new teen center facility. Mr. Dutro a communications teacher at JMMS is running a paper called the Melillo Times this paper will be given out to both parents and students at Joseph

Melillo Middle School. Commissioner Camera stated that we could have information on both the teen center and the leadership program for the students.

Agenda Item- Grants Update

Commissioner Mike D'Amato has completed the first quarter reports relating to the grant of \$ 9000.00 for Play by the Rules Program. The next report is due in January 2010. Commissioner D'Amato will be requesting these funds in the very near future. The Town is waiting to receive the annual \$4,245.00 through the Drug & Alcohol Prevention Grant. Once received the Commission will decide on activities to fund with this money. There was discussion of a poster contest for 8-11 yrs and 12-15 yrs.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner Cindy Recinos stated in her advisory class that there was a petition at the high school regarding a former student who lost his life on Route 80. She mentioned that there should be safer roads for children, brighter signs and painted crosswalks. This could help save lives.

Agenda Item-Discussion for a 2010 Commission Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Petrucelli spoke to the commissioners about taking a look at the calendar and checking their schedules to see what day, time and place would work for the up coming schedule. Because of the Freedom of Information Act our 2010 schedule needs to be in place by January 31, 2010. Commissioner Camera noted that all current terms would be up on February 1, 2011.

Agenda Item-Other

Mr. Petrucelli wanted to share with all commissioner that the Mayor would be hosting her annual Christmas Party on December 18th, 2009 at the Senior Center located at 91 Taylor Street. The Christmas party is open the commissioners. Toys for Tots, and a non perishable item for the East Haven Food Pantry will be part of this years Christmas party.

Commissioner Camera congratulated the East Haven 5th grade football team for making State Champs. They are on their way to receiving the title of New England Champions. This would put them on their way to Nationals which will be held in Orlando, Florida on December 5th- December 12th 2009. This is a great honor for these children and we are wishing them the best. The team is currently looking for donations to help offset some of the cost to the parents, if you would like to help please feel free to contact Commissioner Al Camera or the EHYF 5th grade team.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 P.M. was made by Emily Kuzma, Seconded by Al Camera. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith
Recording Secretary