

**Town of East Haven, Ct**  
**Youth Services Commission Minutes**  
**January 14, 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 7:04 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos and Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: CJ Cofrancesco, Robert Fucci

Non-Commissioners present: Larry Doyle, Frances Foley, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith and Ray Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the December 10, 2008 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato read the December 10 2008 minutes. The minutes were amended to read Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco as being absent. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco requested that in the future it would be helpful to identify Commissioners Cofrancesco's (Mary and CJ) by their full name or first initial so that there wouldn't be any confusion. Mary Varunes made a MOTION to accept the amended minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco MOTION passed unanimously.

Agenda Item- Teen Commissioners Report

Commissioner Cindy Recinos stated that 8<sup>th</sup> graders have not been interested in the Teen Center events. Ms. Recinos is working on new

ideas to encourage the students to attend more teen center events. Mr. Camera is very hopeful that new ideas can attract 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. To date, the Teen Center has had an ice cream sundae night and munchkins and hot chocolate night. Both were new ideas and well received by those in attendance.

#### Agenda Item-YSB/Commission Mission Statement

Mr. Petrucelli distributed the draft mission statements received from Commissioners CJ and Mary Cofrancesco. Commissioners Camera, Kuzma, and Recinos discussed their draft mission statements. These drafts focus on: new and creative programs to enhance the lives of East Haven's youth; safe, quality community based services; programs and activities that will inspire personal growth, self esteem, pride and respect for each other and the community; after school activities, programs and social events that build self esteem, courage and personal characteristics; programs that foster an environment where students gain a sense of accomplishment and pride to be role models in their community and allows for success throughout our lives; and dedicated to bring upon much educational and positive youth development programs that will endorse healthy children, youth and families. "We can make a difference".

From this information Mr. Petrucelli will present a mission statement for review at the February commission meeting.

#### Agenda Item- Discussion of Teen Center Facility

Commissioner Chuck Licata spoke to the Shaffer family about privately owned building space in town as a potential Teen Center site. The space, located next to Home Goods in the Xpect Plaza, is approximately 10,000 sq. feet in the center of town. The teen center would not need the entire space, but would be able to section off the space into different rooms. Mr. Licata stated the space could be given to the Town free of charge with perhaps a tax credit given in return. The Shaffer family will contact the Mayor's office regarding the possible use of this space. The space is handicapped accessible, has a separate entrance into the building, and has both his/her restrooms. The owners are interested in a one year contract renewable contract. Zoning and building permits would have to be taken out.

Mr. Petrucelli mentioned that in addition to the existing Teen Center schedule of events this space could also be used for after school programs and that there are endless possibilities for this space.

#### Agenda Item-Discussion of ETV Project

A discussion with Fran Foley and Ray Smith from ETV included both suggestions, and possibilities for middle and high school aged youth to learn how to work in a real mini TV studio, as well as learning how to do film, edit, plan and advertise.

Ms. Foley suggested having the teens use my space or face book to advertise and promote the teen center. Commissioner Camera will be looking into cable access into each classroom to view Channel 18. Mr. Smith also mentioned that cameras could be loaned to the students that were looking to get involved or interested in working in the television field. Commissioner Emily Kuzma suggested having a fashion show, movie nite or the filming of sport events to be done by students. Training would be done in the ETV studio and be held over a few days. Commissioners Kuzma, Recinos, Cofrancesco, and Fucci will work together to get this message out to all the students at JMMS, Academy and EHHS. Commissioners will get a list of students interested for the next commission meeting on February 11, 2009.

#### Agenda Item-To consider and act upon any other matter brought before the commission

Discussion to set a date for the Guitar Hero/Battle of the Bands type event. A possibility is Friday, February 13, 2009 at the East Haven Senior Center. Commissioner Licata is to get back to Commissioners after speaking with the Director Jan Lougal to check the availability for this date.

Mr. Petrucelli thanked Ms. Foley and Mr. Smith for all the help and support and for taking the time from their busy schedules to meet with the commission.

Mr. Petrucelli also thanked Commissioners Mike D'Amato for coordinating the donation of Dunkin Donut Munchkins from the Foxon Dunkin Doughnuts to the January 16, 2009 teen center event and Commissioner Chuck Licata for all his time and effort finding potential space for a new teen center facility.

### Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. was made by Emily Kuzma; seconded by Cindy Recinos. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith  
Recording Secretary