

Town of East Haven **Youth Services Commission**

The regular meeting of the Town of East Haven Youth Services Commission was held on October 8, 2008 at the Town of East Haven Beach House, Cosey Beach Avenue.

In lieu of a chairperson Youth Service Bureau Coordinator Bob Petrucelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Bob Petrucelli then welcomed the commissioners, thanked them for the interest and patience, as this new commission was being created and stated he looked forward to working with them on the commission.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

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

Non-Commissioners present: Larry Doyle and Bob Petrucelli

Absent: None

Agenda Item- Introduction of Commission Members

Each commissioner introduced himself or herself. The Youth Services Commission is comprised of a diverse group of public safety personnel, school personnel, parents and youth who represent the Academy, Joseph Melillo Middle School and East Haven High School. The Commissioners have extensive experience, dedication and enthusiasm in this appointed role.

Agenda Item- Discussion of History and Role of Youth Services Commission

The majority of grant funding the Youth Services Bureau receives requires participation from a board comprised of members representative of the community. This requirement is consistent with most grant funding. Current examples include funding received from the State Department of Education and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In the past there was an advisory board but new boards were formed due to different grant funding applications. For example, when the Town of East Haven received three years of funding from the Office of Policy and Management to prevent underage drinking, a new board was formed for this grant.

The Youth Services Commission now serves as the single oversight group for existing grants funds, exploring new funding opportunities and advising the Youth Service Bureau on program direction.

Agenda Item - To consider and approve the election of Officers for the Youth Services Commission

A chairperson and vice chairperson is needed for the Youth Services Commission. The chair is responsible for running the commission meetings, working to set the commission meeting agenda and representing the commission at appropriate meetings. The vice chair assists the chair in carrying out the previously mentioned duties and stands in for the chairperson when they are unavailable. Discussion was heard on the possibilities of co-chairs. A MOTION was made for Mike D'Amato to become chairperson of the Youth Services Commission; seconded by Chuck Licata. The motion passed unanimously. A MOTION was made for Al Camera to become vice chairperson of the Youth Services Commission; seconded by Mary Varunes. The motion passed unanimously. With his election as chairperson, Mike D'Amato ran the remainder of the commission meeting

Agenda Item- To consider and approve the meeting schedule for the year 2009

For the remainder of 2008 the Youth Services Commission will meet on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of East Haven Beach House; these dates are November 12, 2008 and December 10, 2008. Larry Doyle stated that until the January 2009 Youth Services Commission meeting and the commission files the necessary scheduling paperwork with the Town Clerk's office the November and December meetings need to be referred to as special meetings. Complying with the Freedom of Information Act and Roberts Rules of Order were discussed.

Discussion on the scheduling of the commission meetings for 2009. The second Wednesday of each month was agreed upon as the best possible time.

The 2009 meeting dates of the Youth Services Commission are:

January 14, 2009
February 11, 2009
March 11, 2009
April 8, 2009
May 13, 2009
June 10, 2009
September 9, 2009
October 14, 2009
November 18, 2009
December 9, 2009

For the November 2008 meeting juice/water and snacks will be available and each commission member will be provided with a binder materials.

Agenda Item- Discussion of Community Needs relating to children, youth and families

A lively discussion with input from each of the commissioners, identified some of the concerns and possible solutions of enhancing the services for the youth of East Haven. Issues raised included more non-athletic opportunities for youth, after school programming, appropriate age groups to target for programs and services and the current Teen Center program. In the past the Teen Center program coordinated a successful event that featured poetry and high school bands. Other towns run similar events. This type of event can be repeated in town. An overall concern about the lack of physical space to provide programs was discussed. Possible options discussed were space included in the plans for old high school facility, volunteer firehouses and the Foxon Community Center. The Commission would like to invite Mayor April Capone Almon to a future meeting. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco described a multi purpose facility she and her family visited while out of state that was the focal point of the community for offering a wide range of programs and services to residents. Also discussed were possible survey methods, web based and printed to determine community needs.

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

No additional items were brought before the commission.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. was made by Al Camera; second by Emily Kuzma. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Petrucelli