

TOWN of BETHEL
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APR 16 2008

YOUTH COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Pro Access

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Richard Merritt and Hilda DeLucia, Teen Center Director,
Members: Janice Stevenson, Vice-Chair, Lisa Bergh, Melisa Pelikan
Absent: Kimberly Keough, Jane Kraver

CALL TO ORDER: R. Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman R. Merritt asked for a motion to accept the March 18, 1008 meeting minutes. J. Stevenson made the motion, M. Pelikan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: M. Pelikan thanked J. Stevenson for obtaining demographic information and Youth Commission Charter following the special meeting for strategic planning on April 12, 2008. H. DeLucia presented the Teen Center Director Report dated April 15, 2008 (attached). While attending the Tobacco Cessation Program in Waterbury, H. DeLucia was able to collaborate with the Youth Program Director in Watertown regarding the structure town teen programs. She worked with students of the National Art Honor Society on the Bethel Blooms project. She facilitated construction of two blooms for attachment to lampposts in town. Membership in Pro Access increased by 21% from 117 youth in March to 141 in April. Gender representation is estimated at 1:4 females to males. Regarding activities for the month, H. DeLucia reports that members were accepting of the decision to split the Open Gym program on Fridays to allow high school members to alternate weeks with 7th and 8th graders due to popularity and increasing participation. The Boston robotics program was also highlighted for its success. Sixteen youth have expressed interest in forming a Relay for Life team and work continues to that end. Two new employees were hired pending background checks: Assistant Director Claudia Fortunato and bookkeeper Trisha Ouellette.

Continued discussion regarding candidates for the alternate Republican vacancy on the Youth Commission due to appointee James Swickard not being sworn (see minutes of Regular Meeting on February 19, 2008). With no candidates being provided by the Selectmen, discussion of possible candidates for consideration was re-visited.

NEW BUSINESS: Six recommendations for Ex-Officio Youth Commission member from Pat Cosentino were reviewed. None are current members of Pro Access. Additionally, 47 high school students who are members of Pro Access were considered. It was agreed to first concentration on a freshman or sophomore candidate and if none prove suitable or agreeable, will then look to juniors. It was also agreed that a senior would not be a beneficial candidate. Motion was made by J. Stevenson to table further discussion and decision until the May regular meeting of the Youth Commission, at which time candidates 15 years old by the beginning of next academic year will be considered; seconded by L. Bergh and motion passed unanimously. H. DeLucia presented a letter to her from Phyllis Kansky notifying her that the Department of Revenue Services will be accepting applications for the 2008 Neighborhood Assistance Act; H. DeLucia will submit a request for a copier for the Teen Center. H. DeLucia requested C. Fortunato be added to the Commission roster to facilitate communication, and presented the Inspired Learning Employee Handbook (attached). Progress in the strategic planning process was reviewed as were activities related to the Special Meeting of the Bethel Youth Commission on April 5, 2008 (attached). Having no more new business, motion to move to Executive Session was made by M. Pelikan and seconded by J. Stevenson and unanimously approved at 7:54 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

There being no further business, L. Bergh offered a motion to adjourn, J. Stevenson seconded and the motion was carried unanimously with all in favor.

The next regular meeting will be May 20, 2008 at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melisa Pelikan

