

# **YOUTH COMMISSION**

**CJH MUNICIPAL CENTER  
PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE**

**1 SCHOOL STREET  
September 23, 2010  
6:30PM**

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **PRESENT:**

Chairman, Richard Merritt, Members: Lisa Bergh, Jane Kraver and Devin Pedone, and Kristin Nauheimer. Absent with notice: Bob Korin and Kate Shea

Also Present: Hilda Delucia, Pro-Access Teen Center

Chairman Rich Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

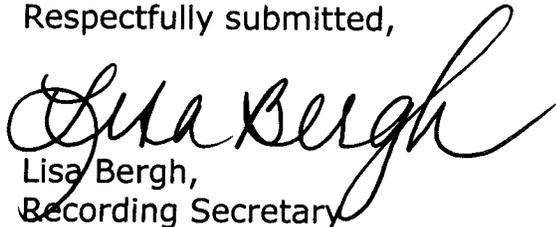
### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CORRESPONDENCE:**

Members read the letter drafted corrections, additions and corrected omissions took place.

Jane Kraver made a motion to approve the correspondence as amended (see attached). Motion was seconded by Kristin Nauheimer. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Bergh. The motion was seconded by Jane Kraver. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa Bergh,  
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED

2010 SEP 24 A 10: 26

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

PRO ACCESS, Bethel's Teen Center  
c/o Bethel Town Hall 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801

Dear Parent of Pro Access Member,

As you may know, Hilda DeLucia has been the Director of Pro Access, Bethel's Teen Center for the past 3 years. Within 2-weeks of her taking the position, the Teen Center building, located next to the library, was closed due to lead and asbestos. In her second year her budget was cut by 38% to its current level.

We currently have over 350 members enrolled in Pro Access. We provide a wide variety of activities to attract all the teens of Bethel. Despite the success she and her assistant have accomplished there are basic challenges they face without the use of a permanent "home" some of which are.

- Limited space in town for meetings and programs
- Expenses associated with using some venues
- Scheduling conflicts with other groups and individuals for space
- Being the only town in Fairfield County with a teen center without a permanent home

But the greatest negative factor is the message it sends that **teens are not a priority in Bethel.**

The Board of Selectmen of Bethel are proposing:

1. Building an extension to the Municipal Center to house a Teen Center. This concept is ideal but we fear it would take years before completion due to the funding, time and manpower necessary to complete it.
2. Use of 2/3 of the old Visiting Nurses offices in the lower level of the Municipal Center. The other 1/3 of the space would be used by the senior center. Even though the senior center currently uses 90% of the space on the lower level of the Municipal Center, they have indicated they need more space with a disregard to the fact that we have NO space. We would like the use of the entire space.
3. Abate the old building of lead and asbestos and have us use the first floor for the teen center. The library would like to see the building torn down and the space used for additional parking.
4. The Masonic Temple on Greenwood Ave. which is not an acceptable or viable option.

We received a grant of \$150,000 over a year ago which was to be used to abate the existing building of lead and asbestos. We are told the \$150K can be applied to any option as long as it's for the use of the Bethel teens.

We have been extremely patient and conceding throughout the last 3 years. However, we feel we've come to the point where **we need your help in moving this effort forward.**

Here's how you can help:

- Call, email or visit your state representative asking them to support our teens! (see reverse side)
- Call, email or visit Matt Knickerbocker, our first selectmen or Richard Straiton or Paul Szatkowski our second selectmen and ask them to make a decision and move this project forward. First Selectman's office number is 203-794-8501.
- Write a letter to the editor of the Danbury News Times at [letters@newstimes.com](mailto:letters@newstimes.com) to help bring the issue to the public's attention.
- Attend a first selectman's meeting and state your desires during the public input. They meet the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7:30PM in the municipal center.
- Send a postcard to our first selectman indicating your desire for a final plan.

We welcome your questions, suggestions and ideas. Please feel free to contact any of us at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,  
Bethel's Youth Commission

Rich Merrit – chair 792-8077      Bob Korin,- vice-chair 743-7299      Jane Kraver – member 792-7480  
Lisa Bergh – member 794-8505      Devin Pedone – member 241-6548      Kate Shea – member 744-4415  
Kristin Nauheimer – member 512-5285      Jacquie Mancher – Youth representative

**Our United States Senators:**

Joseph Lieberman  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4041  
Website: [lieberman.senate.gov](http://lieberman.senate.gov)

Christopher Dodd  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2823  
Website: [dodd.senate.gov](http://dodd.senate.gov)

---

**Our District 5 Senator: Christopher Murphy**

412 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-4476  
Fax: 202-225-5933

198 Main Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203-798-2072

Website: [chrismurphy.house.gov](http://chrismurphy.house.gov)

---

**State Representative: David Scribner**

88 Obtuse Hill Road  
Brookfield, CT 06804  
203-775-0766  
Home fax: 203-775-2346

PO Box 592  
Brookfield, CT 06804

House of Republican Office  
LOB Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106  
800-842-1423  
Fax: 860-240-0207

Website: [repscribner.com](http://repscribner.com)  
Email: [david.scribner@housegop.state.ct.us](mailto:david.scribner@housegop.state.ct.us)

---

**State Representative: Jason Bartlett**

14 Highview Terrace  
Bethel, CT 06801  
203-748-6441

Legislative Office Building, Room 400  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
860-240-8585 or 800-842-8267

Website: [housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett](http://housedems.ct.gov/Bartlett)  
Email: [Jason.bartlett@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Jason.bartlett@cga.ct.gov)

---

**State Senator: Michael McLachlan**

Senate Republican Office  
LOB Room 3400  
Hartford, CT 06106  
1-800-842-1421

Website: [senaterepublicans.ct.gov](http://senaterepublicans.ct.gov)  
Email: [michael.mclachlan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:michael.mclachlan@cga.ct.gov)

---

**State Senator: Toni Boucher**

5 Wicks End Lane  
Wilton, CT 06897  
Home: 203-762-3232  
Work: 1-800-842-1421

Website: [senaterepublicans.ct.gov](http://senaterepublicans.ct.gov)  
Email: [toni.boucher@cga.gov](mailto:toni.boucher@cga.gov)

---



# **YOUTH COMMISSION**

**CJH MUNICIPAL CENTER  
1 SCHOOL STREET  
BETHEL, CONNECTICUT 06801**

TO: BETHEL BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FROM: BETHEL YOUTH COMMISSION  
RE: A HOME FOR THE BETHEL TEEN CENTER  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Dear First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton, and Selectman Szatkowski.

It is with the utmost respect that we write this letter, asking for a home for our Bethel Pro-Access Teen Center. It has been many long years of anticipation of someday having a place the teens may call their own.

This letter is to convey to you our preference for our desired location in numbered order as reflected in the unanimous vote recorded in the minutes of the Youth Commission meeting dated July 20, 2010.

#1 A New Building

#2 Entire Former VNA location

#3 Old Town Hall

#4 Masonic Temple is not an acceptable or viable option.

As an interim step the VNA location would be utilized during construction of the new building.

Your immediate attention to this matter would be appreciated.

We want our youth in this town to understand that they are valued, too much time has elapsed and a decision needs to be made promptly. Attached please find a letter recently mailed to all members parents.

We thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

**Bethel Youth Commission**

Richard E. Merritt, Chairman

Bob Korin, Vice-Chairman

Lisa Bergh, Member

Jane Kraver, Member

Kate Shea, Member

Kristin Nauheimer, Alternate Member

Devin Pedone, Alternate Member

Jacquie Mancher, Ex-Officio Teen Member