



TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776
Telephone (860) 354-0047 • Web Site: www.youthagency.org

Office of the Youth Agency

Minutes, New Milford Youth Agency Board Meeting, May 14, 2012

Board Members Present: Phyllis Alesio, Bill Granata, Pat Hembrook, Eleanor Covelli, Brad Kamp, Stella Vendetti

Board Members Absent: Ginny Landgrebe, Jim Carmellini

Also Absent: was ex-officio Mayor Pat Murphy. (the two ex-officio high school students have not been appointed yet)

Also attending: Mark Mankin, Director

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman, Phyllis Alesio at 7:35 p.m.

I. NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING

A motion was made by Pat Hembrook to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Covelli and passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget 2011-2012

The Director reported that the Agency's budget is on track for the 2011-2012 year. The Latchkey Account will be able to reimburse the town \$33,000 to cover benefits and still be in the black. Maxx is on track budget wise and the farm has about a \$400.00 surplus.

B. Sullivan Farm

The Friends of Sullivan Farm signed the contract, so the Youth Agency is out of the farm. We expect to get some income from the sales of syrup.

C. Programming Update:

See Attachment

D. Program Planning Report Parent University

The Youth Agency will be planning a Parent University Program. It is planned for the first Saturday in November. There will be 20 workshops at Sarah Noble School, morning and afternoon sessions. We are asking for the use of 6 classrooms and the cafeteria that day. These programs have been held in other towns and cities and have been very successful.

E. Budget 2012-2013

Vote on Tuesday

GEORGE C. BURKE
TOWN CLERK

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NEW MILFORD, CT

IV. New Business

A. Student Advisory Board/Maxx Advisory Board,

There are two students recommended for the Student Advisory Board. They are Maren Harcken and John Tower. Maren is a sophomore and John is a junior which will be good since they both will not graduate at the same time so we don't lose both when they graduate.

B. Email/Calendar System

The Youth Agency has converted all their email to gmail. The email addresses all stayed the same but are re-routed to the gmail account.

The Youth Agency is now using Google Calendar also, so that everyone can keep a better handle on all the Youth Agency scheduling

C. Summer Programming

Plans are being made now for the summer programming. There will be a series of programs at the Maxx for High School Students. Also, Mark is looking into the planning of building a shed in back of East Street School to replace the greenhouse

D. Teen Film Festival

The Youth Agency is planning on holding a Teen Film Festival. They are in the process of contacting young film makers to participate and are busy planning the event.

E. East Street Renovation

The Youth Agency is applying to the state for the grant to fix the cupola and various other projects on the building. The grant is for \$200,000. Kevin Kwas will be going to Hartford to work on this grant.

The plumbing has been fixed in the basement kitchen at East Street

F. Summer Work Program

The Youth Agency will be hiring about 12 students to work this summer. Some projects will be working with Parks and Rec to build some bridges and take down the greenhouse behind the East Street Building and build a small barn to house our equipment. Also, clearing trails and landscaping East Street and other town properties.

G. Grad Party

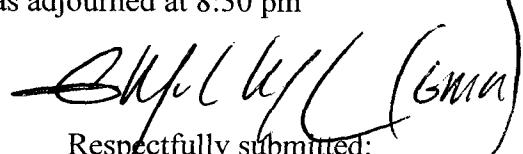
We are participating as a 50's diner. The artwork that has been done is great and we will be serving coffee, espresso, cookies, etc and applying temporary tattoos to the grads.

We are re instituting the work crews that will be helping to build bridges and do other similar projects around town.

H. Any other business

The Commission on the Arts has approached the Youth Agency to do a series of workshops using The Maxx. They will be conducted by Tom Kidd, a local illustrator. They will be held at the Maxx and the first one will be May 31st.

Eleanor made a motion to adjourn. Bill seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm


Respectfully submitted:
Phyllis Alesio, Chairperson

Program Update: 5/14/12

1. Juvenile Review Panel

The Juvenile Review Panel currently has 15 open cases. The panel last met on Tuesday April 17th. The next scheduled Panel meeting is Tuesday May 15th, 2012 and there are 7 new cases for deposition. A current schedule of meetings for 2011-12 is posted in the main office at the Youth Agency.

Open Cases:

Case 1 (Male): Offense: Criminal Mischief 3rd d

Restitution: Attend counseling sessions with a focus set on family communication, anger management, and decision making. The number of sessions will be determined by the counselor/therapist. In addition, 20 Hours of community service at a non-profit, public service agency in New Milford.

Case 2 (Male): Offense: Breach of Peace, Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree

Restitution: Letter of apology addressed to the victim offering financial restitution for damages done. Also, have current therapist create an action plan to address skills in social etiquette and respect for others.

Case 3 (Female): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: Complete 20 Hours of Community Service at a non-profit agency in New Milford

Case 4 (Male): Offense: Illegal Possession of Marijuana

Restitution: Continue current treatment sessions with his counselor until the goals that have been determined by his counselor have been met.

Case 5 (Male): Offense: Criminal Mischief 3rd d

Restitution: Attend counseling sessions with a focus set on family communication, anger management, and decision making. The number of sessions will be determined by the counselor/therapist. In addition, 20 Hours of community service at a non-profit, public service agency in New Milford.

Case 6 (Male): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: Research an article/book that explains the dynamics of Bullying and gives strategies on dealing with Bullying behavior. Complete a 2 page report to the panel on the findings.

Case 7 (Male): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: Complete 20 Hours of Community Service at a non-profit agency in New Milford

Case 8: (Male): Operating Motor Vehicle without a License

Restitution: Complete parents program of paying back damages to their car. Obtain a current Psychological Evaluation and provide the results to his case manager. Meet with school counselors and teachers to design a plan of action to get his grades up. Find an afterschool interest and take part in planned group activities (examples: volunteer, work, club, sport).

Case 9: (Female): Possession Weapon on School Grounds

Restitution: 1. receive a re-evaluation of current medications and provide her caseworker a copy of any findings and/or recommendations from her doctor. Complete any follow-up to the recommendations that the Panel may have regarding changes to prescriptions. 2. Continue attending sessions with her Counselor. A schedule of meetings is required to be provided to her caseworker by the end of each month. The duration of the Juvenile Review Panel contract will be determined by counselor/therapist recommendations.

New Cases:

(Male): Offense: Larceny 6th, Possession of Liquor by a minor.

Restitution: TBD at next meeting Tuesday May 15th

(Female): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: TBD at next meeting Tuesday May 15th

(Female): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: TBD at next meeting Tuesday May 15th

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(Female): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: TBD at next meeting Tuesday May 15th

(Male): Offense: Breach of Peace

Restitution: TBD at next meeting Tuesday May 15th

2. Drug Prevention Council

Schaghticoke Middle School hosted a Health Fair on Wednesday April 11 from 7:30am-2:00pm. I worked with Scott Hoffman, who is a Health Teacher at the school, to give support and feedback on the development of the day's activities. The Drug Prevention Council funded the catering costs for lunch for all of the providers in attendance at the event. Stacey and Alison worked the tables during the event. *Please see attached thank you notes from SMS.*

Drug Take Back Day: The Drug Prevention Council, in conjunction with New Milford CTriad and the New Milford Police Department will be hosting a community

Take Back Day on June 2nd. People will have the opportunity to clean out medicine cabinets and other areas of their homes and deliver them to our location and have the prescriptions disposed of in a safe/environmentally responsible manner by DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) representatives. Please see attached flyer which is being distributed throughout the community.

"The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

Americans that participated in the DEA's third National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 29, 2011, turned in more than 377,086 pounds (188.5 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,327 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. When the results of the three prior Take-Back Days are combined, the DEA, and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed 995,185 pounds (498.5 tons) of medication from circulation in the past 13 months.

"The amount of prescription drugs turned in by the American public during the past three Take-Back Day events speaks volumes about the need to develop a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart. "DEA remains hard at work to establish just such a drug disposal process, and will continue to offer take-back opportunities until the proper regulations are in place."

"With the continued support and hard work of our more than 3,945 state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community partners, these three events have dramatically reduced the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, and increased awareness of this critical public health issue," said Leonhart. www.dea.gov

Yard Sign Campaign: The Council will be working with local liquor stores to distribute any remaining yard signs into the community. With Prom and Graduation coming, May and June are important months in the battle against underage drinking within our town. Community members will be able to take the signs for their yards and spread the message of "I Am a Parent First, No Underage Drinking Parties Hosted Here."

Grad Party: If you would like to volunteer at the party this year, (June 23rd from 9:00-1:00am or 1:00am – 5:00am) please contact me either by phone at the office or through email at Kevin@youthagency.org. Last year we had more volunteers than spots available. This year will be first come first serve. Please contact me directly if you are interested. Thank you.

The next monthly Prevention Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 16th at 12:15pm at the Maxx.

3. Agency Statistics

The Agency has begun using the registration forms for the new data collection system that the State has required for year end reporting.

4. Counselor Update:

*The following groups are currently being run:

Teen Girls Group: Every Friday September – June. For teens grades 9-12. Topics include self esteem, healthy relationships, Nutrition, and Substance Abuse. Currently there are 10 girls enrolled in the program.

6th Grade Group: Held at the Maxx on every other Tuesday. The kids learn social skills and self esteem building through fun activities. There are currently 6 students enrolled in this group.

7th & 8th Grade Group: Held at the Maxx on every other Tuesday. The kids learn social skills and self-esteem building through fun activities. There are currently 6 students enrolled in this program.

Family Issues Group for 4th - 6th grades. Held weekly at Sarah Noble School (during school hours). Topics include Divorce, Anxiety & Stress Management. There are 8 students in this group.

***Upcoming Groups:**

Navigating the Girl-world in Middle School: Has your middle school daughter ever been on the giving or receiving end of putdowns, rumors, or other hurtful "drama" between girls? The New Milford Youth Agency is offering a FREE one time workshop for middle school girls on Friday May 18th from 2:30-4:30 at the Maxx in downtown New Milford. Girls can come to learn practical tools for dealing with conflict, and creating more positive experiences with other girls. The Women's Center of Danbury will facilitate this interactive program along with YA counselors. Youth Agency bus transportation is provided from SMS to the Maxx- but there are limited seats! Snacks will be provided, and parents can pickup at the Maxx at 4:30. Registration is required; contact the YA @ (860) 354-0047 or email Laura@youthagency.org.

Summer Thursday group: A repeat of last year's successful free summer activity day. Meet every Thursday in summer for activities for youth entering 4-8 grade.

Summer Volunteer/Intern Program: Opportunity for high school students, entering grades 11 and 12 to take their volunteering to a more formal level by participating in a one day training, committing to a certain minimum hours, and participating in planning an activity. "Interns" will mostly work with the kids on Summer Thursdays, fully supervised by Stacey and Laura.

5. Police Grant

The Police & Youth Community Enrichment Project: This collaboration between the New Milford Youth Agency, the New Milford Police Department will provide representatives from New Milford's mainstream, and at-risk populations, the opportunity to work directly with local police officers in both a social and professional venue. The project will provide local youth the opportunity to socialize with members of the police force at the town's local teen center (the Maxx), where together they can play pool, ping pong, watch movies, and play video games together. During these sessions, the Police Officers will recruit 8-10 youth for an Enrichment team. This team will do leadership training as well work directly under the supervision of Police Officers in the construction of a new fishing dock at Segal Meadows Park, which was newly acquired by the Town of New Milford. A "Ground Breaking/Ribbon Cutting" ceremony will conclude this project.

The program will run April – June 2012: The 7 sessions of the program will be laid out as follows.

Week 1: Snaxx at the Maxx – *April 30th*

Week 2: Snaxx at the Maxx – *May 7*

Week 3: Snaxx at the Maxx – *May 14*

Week 4: Camp Sloane Leadership Training – *May 28*

Week 5: Hike - *TBD*

Week 6: Construction of Fishing Dock at Sega Meadows Park - *June*

Week 7: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Family Picnic at Sega Meadows – *June*

6. Writing of Pertinent Grants

Police & Youth Grant 2012-13: Our grant application for the OPM Police & Youth grant has been written and submitted for the next fiscal year. We should be hearing if we have been accepted again over the next couple of months.

Dear Kerin,

4/11/12

The Fair would not have happened without everything you provided. The Contacts, Food, and Support went a long way. Teachers are still mentioning how positive it was for the Students. Many Students had no idea how much your agency has to offer! It was great to meet you in person and hope to see you again. Thank You.

Best Wishes, Scott + Gerry

Dear Stacey and Alison,

4/11/12

Your table setup and interaction with the kids created an exciting display at our health fair. We appreciate your efforts in educating and inspiring all those who attended. Thank you for influencing our students in a positive way and offering the services you do. It was a pleasure to have met you both and hope you attend future fairs here at Schaghticoke.

Best Wishes,
Scott + Gerry

NEW MILFORD HOSPITAL

AFFILIATED WITH DANBURY HOSPITAL

DRUG TAKE-BACK

Looking for a safe, environmentally friendly way to dispose of your old or unused medications and out of date "over the counter" medications? Announcing...

Community Drug Take-Back Day!

Saturday, June 2, 2012

9:00am – 12:00 noon

**Western CT Health Network Lab Service Center
120 Park Lane New Milford, CT**

Bring Unused or Expired Prescriptions & Over the Counter Medications
Including: Pills, Capsules, Tablets, Topical Creams, Cough and Cold
Products, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Metered Dose Inhalers,
Thyroid Hormones, Naproxen. Please do not bring syringes.

For more information visit www.newmilfordhospital.org

With thanks to the New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council, the New Milford/CTriad
and New Milford Police Department.



**Save
Date**

The New Milford Youth Agency presents
a FREE workshop for 7/8 grade girls:

NAVIGATING THE GIRL WORLD IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Friday May 18th
2:30-4:30 @ the Maxx**



Come to this fun interactive workshop!

Have you ever been on the giving or receiving end of putdowns, rumors, or other hurtful "drama" between girls?

- Learn practical tools for dealing with conflicts with other girls
- Learn how to stand up for yourself and others without being mean
- Snacks provided
- **YA bus transportation from SMS (limited space)**
- Parent pickup at the Maxx @ 4:30

Special Presenter: Kelly Mullins, Womens Center of Danbury

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For information or to sign up:

Contact Laura or Alison @ the New Milford Youth Agency

Laura@youthagency.org or (860) 354-0047

Approved for Distribution	
via Students	
Date: <u>5/8/12</u>	<u>Janell C. Farleyfort</u>
NMHS	NES
SMS Girls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JPS
SNIS	H&P

Maxx May 14th Update for April events

Maxx Advisory Board: 8 NMHS Students Attended: This group met Sunday April 29th to discuss the upcoming jazz & acoustic night logistics. Some other topics discussed was an Iron Chef night and ideas for summer programming. Most of the ground work was laid for the iron chef night and a date picked tentatively for this summer. The advisory group also talked about summer programming and some new ideas for middle school events. These ideas included new themes and prizes for dances. The final topic discussed was the Youth film festival which will be a film event lasting all weekend where area teens can send in their short films to be showcased and judged by their peers. The film festival is set for some time in August and we expect a good turnout. The advisory board's feedback was vital and a lot of good ideas came out of the meeting. Dinner and soda was provided. The next meeting will be held on May 27th.

Maxx Jazz Night – 36 people attended: The Jazz Night was a big hit among area teens which allowed different musicians to come in and play their talent in a calm relaxing setting. This was the first jazz/funk night and it brought in a whole different target audience to the Maxx. Comedy was also performed by a NMHS teen named Dustin Martin and everyone loved it. Great food was cooked by the Maxx kitchen staff and it just turned into a wonderful, successful and friendly night. The Next Jazz night is scheduled for May 18th.

Coffee House : 30 people attended the Coffee House night on April 27th. It allowed local musicians and artist to play and showcase their work in a calm relaxing setting. It was well attended and the response was great. For the upcoming May 25th coffee house night the Maxx will do another Judged art show. The Art will be judged by the students in 3 categories and the winners will receive prizes. We are hoping to get more artists and give the ones who have been showing their work a chance to win a \$50.00 Gas card

Total Per Month – 66 attending

Middle School Event: 81- 6th graders & 50 7th graders attended the 2 April middle school dance. During the night there was a game night featuring 3 different games for kids to play. The winner of the games received a Wal-Mart gift card, free admission & drinks . During the dance our counselor Alison came down to help supervise and give our staff some insight and feedback on student behavior and how to appropriately handle it. Alison's feedback was well received and I would like to thank her for coming down to help.

For this 7th Grade dance we continued the trial separation of 7th and 8th grades. Each Grade will have their own dance. This is again due to the over whelming attendance of kids and the feeling that the dances will be much easier to handle

and provide a safer environment if the two grades were separated. The Director and I will continue to monitor and re-evaluate this change in a couple of months to see if it is working.

Total per month – 132 middle school students

Building use For Maxx Programming

Monday April 2nd – Snaxx 15 students

Saturday April 7th - Open Night – 24 students

Monday April 9th – Snaxx – 20 students

Saturday April 14th – Open night-25

Saturday April 21st – Open Night 18 students

Monday April 23rd –Snaxx -25 students

Tuesday April 24th – Friends of Sullivan farm meeting -10 attending

Wednesday April 25th – LHTC Meeting -14 attending

Saturday April 28th– Open Night -10 students

Monday April 29th – Snaxx 12 students

Total attending Per Month- 173

Youth Agency Counseling Groups :

Teen Girls Group : 5 Students 3 times a month

Total : 15 students

6th Grade Group- 6 students twice a month

Total : 12 students

7th grade Group - 6 students twice a month

Total : 12 students

Total Per Month - 39 Students

Building Rentals: This month we had 5 building rentals in March. Rentals continue to be a great way to bring in revenue while the building is empty .

Rental Use Stats

Sunday April 1st rental – 20 attending

Saturday April 7th Rental - 57 attending

Saturday April 28th Rental – 34 attending

Sunday April 29th Rental -30 attending

Total Per Month – 141 attending

Other Building uses : Park & Rec Karate is still using the Maxx every weds night and the Boy Scouts are continuing to use the Maxx every Thurs night . Litchfield Hills Transition Center is also using the Maxx Mon-Fri 8am-3pm. Plow to Plate will be coming in starting tentatively March/April on Tuesdays after school to run their cooking program.

Park and Rec Karate

Kids kicks— 14 participants ages 5-7 & 14 adults staying and watching

Karate 21 participants ages 7-12 & 21 adults staying and watching

Karate 17 youth participants & 12 adults staying and watching
5 adult participants

Total per month – 416

Boy Scouts

10 kids, 10 adults : Total for the month 80 attendees

Boy Scout Overnight at the Maxx : 12 kids 4 adults

Total per month – 96 attendees

Litchfield Hills

7 students & 5 staff daily

Total per month : 240 people

Total Building Use For the Month of April : 1303 people

Luke Covelli

Grade: 10th

Address: 25 Outlook Rd. New Milford, CT 06776

Home Phone #: 860 354 9555

Cell Phone #: 203 947 0797

Email: marenharcken@gmail.com

Let's see... I run cross country. I spent years dancing although I don't anymore, but I am still involved in the acting program at Fineline Theatre Arts (where I used to dance). I participated in Plow to Plate last year. I love photography and traveling. I speak german. I think family is incredibly important. I like to help people and be around kids.

Goals: hmm...I don't know what I want to be when I grow up but I know I want to graduate high school and go to college and we'll see from there. I devote a lot of time to my schoolwork so that I will be able to pursue whatever I want when I decide, so I guess having good grades is a goal... I would love to spend a year going to Africa or Latin America to help people or to teach people english. I want to travel as much as I can because I love to see new places and cultures.

Let me know if there is anything else you need to know....I am not sure if this is enough or what you want to know from me.

Have a nice weekend!

Maren Harcken

Note to Board of Directors:

Maren worked for the Youth Agency to help address the issue of bringing more fresh, local healthy food choices to the New Milford Schools. She was very professional and responsible.

She has been a wonderful addition to the Student Advisory Board, helping where needed.

Stacey

May 14, 2012