



TOWN OF MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MILFORD YOUTH CENTER
MILFORD YOUTH COMMISSION
24 Pearl St., Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-1756 Phone
(508) 473-4388 FAX



Milford Youth Commission

In-person Meeting

Date: February 7, 2023

Time: 6:15pm

Members Present: Chuck Calagione, Sandra Caproni, Christine Crean, Stacy Darling, Darlene Dulude, John Dulude, Brendan Rickert, Jason Vaz
Remotely: Ariea Bryan
Members Absent: Steve Sousa
Staff Present: Dale Michaud, Emily Stienstra, Jen Ward
Guests: David Levine, Mitch Ruscitti

Call to Order

At 6:15 pm, Chair Rickert called the meeting to order and performed the roll call.

A. Invitation to Speak: Mitch Ruscitti of FinCom spoke. See #4 below.

B. New Business

1. Approve Meeting Minutes: 1/10/23

Motion: B. Rickert moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1/10/23.
Seconded: C. Crean
Roll Call Vote: A. Bryan, yes; C. Calagione, yes; S. Caproni, yes; C. Crean, yes; S. Darling, yes; D. Dulude, yes; J. Dulude, yes; B. Rickert, yes. J. Vaz abstained. None opposed.
Motion Carries: 8-0-1

2. Fund Balance as of 1/31/23: \$81,339.60

3. Signing of warrants:

- i. 22-30 Maintenance Account for \$364.00 - Fish Works food and tank maintenance. Social media feeds indicate fish are dying due to a lack of quality water in Milford.
- ii. 22-31 Maintenance Account for \$1,887.40 - ULine; Verizon. Purchased closet space.

Motion: B. Rickert moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1/10/23.
Seconded: D. Dulude
Roll Call Vote: A. Bryan, yes; C. Calagione, yes; S. Caproni, yes; C. Crean, yes; S. Darling, yes; D. Dulude, yes; J. Dulude, yes; B. Rickert, yes; J. Vaz, yes. None opposed.
Motion Carries: 9-0

4. Milford Parks Commission Public Hearing with Select Board, 2/15/23 @ 7pm

https://www.milfordma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3466/f/agendas/parks_and_select_2_20230127081740.pdf

M. Ruscitti of FinCom extended an invitation to Youth Center Board members and staff to attend and plan to participate in the public hearing.

- He is writing a grant to apply for a \$1,300,000 Community Development Block grant to renovate the Milford Town Park along Congress Street as well as revitalize the basketball court and parking lot on Pearl Street across from the Youth Center. A crosswalk and signage are included in the proposal (possibly solar powered).
- The Park and project are located in an environmental justice area. This would increase equity among the community. It is the most densely populated area in Town with families of low to moderate income.
- A letter of support was shared from MYC Chair, Brendan Rickert to the Select Board.
- Members were encouraged to submit comments to Mr. Ruscitti in advance.
- In-person or virtual participation at the Select Board meeting was encouraged.
- If members or staff cannot attend, add your public comments.
- The goal is 50-60 people to attend to support this.
- He will make available architectural plans for the park in advance of 2/15.
- Representative Murray and Senator Rausch will attend the hearing.
- The Milford Patch contains the article: <https://patch.com/massachusetts/milford-ma/milford-moves-town-park-renovation-needs-public-input>

Youth Center staff and board members discussed:

- Informal program uses for the renovated Pearl Street basketball court, parking lot.
- Support the public hearing with youth workers comfortable with public speaking.
- MYC to email letters to families to advocate for the revitalization.
- Blue Cross may contribute \$150,000 to implement a 150 x 30 ft. outdoor exercise platform with mural at the Town park (Cultural Council).

Motion:	B. Rickert moved to adopt the letter and send to the Select Board in advance of the 2/15/23 meeting.
Seconded:	S. Darling
Roll Call Vote:	A. Bryan, yes; C. Calagione, yes; S. Caproni, yes; C. Crean, yes; S. Darling, yes; D. Dulude, yes; J. Dulude, yes; B. Rickert, yes; J. Vaz, yes. None opposed.
Motion Carries:	9-0

5. MYC Scholarship:

- There is no update.

6. Golf Fundraiser Update: <https://milfordyouthcenter.org/2023/01/17/myc-golf-tournament/>

i. Sponsors Secured:

1. Petro Home Services— Golf Lunch and Putting Contest sponsor for \$3K

2. Hillview Equipment Parts – Golf Cart Sponsor for \$1K
3. Plumb House Inc. – Beverage Sponsor for \$500
4. Hockomock Area YMCA – Hole in One Sponsor for \$300
5. Signs Plus - Hole in One Sponsor for \$300
6. Milford Girls Softball League – Tee Sponsor for \$150
7. BluSky Restoration Contractors – Tee Sponsor for \$150
8. Honey Dew - Tee Sponsor for \$150

ii. We are still looking for the following sponsors:

1. Presenting sponsor for \$5K
2. Party Package for \$1.5K
3. Beverage Sponsor for \$500 – one more sponsor needed
4. Hole in One Sponsor for \$300 – two more sponsors needed
5. Tee sponsors for \$150 – unlimited
6. We currently have 12 of the 22 foursomes complete! Only 10 more left
7. Ms. Ward will ask Fish Works to sponsor a hole.
8. Rockland Trust may donate

Members were encouraged to promote the event using the list so businesses are not asked twice. Half of the golfers will go home with a raffle prize.

7. Policy Review: <https://fs10.formsite.com/E63Z3Q/rakbpx0esm/index.html>

Members reviewed Youth Center Registration, Code of Conduct, and Discipline Policy.

8. Board Conflict of Interest Due: <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com/>

Staff and members were reminded to create an account.

9. Town Meeting Warrant: 12-15 passenger van

- i. Due Thursday, March 9, 2023
- ii. Monday, May 22, 2023 - Town Hall or remotely

Mr. Levine will address to the FinCom sub-committee whether MYC could use school vans or minivans for summer camp. This is less expensive than buses with drivers.

10. Email/IT issues

- As of 1/11/23, Youth Center staff were unable to send or receive electronic mail.
- Individual members were either quarantined or mail went to spam folders.
- Email communication was disabled for more than one week.
- This affected communication with families who were arranging food pick-ups.
- The issue is mostly resolved.

11. February – FT Staff reviews

- E. Stienstra's annual evaluation is due in March.
- J. Ward's evaluation document was not finalized. She will follow up with Steve Sousa.

Members were encouraged to attend the Personnel Board meeting 2/8 to support the grade step increase.

- Support the rationale for the \$30,000 Study that reviewed youth center director salaries and scope for 18 peer towns.
- There would be no increase to the Youth Center budget to increase the salary this year.
- The director's salary is at the maximum end of the salary band.
- Members discussed eliminating the step ceiling for current and future directors.
- Ask the Human Resources Director to defend the \$30,000 study rationale to FinCom.

C. Directors Report:

1. After School Program:

- a. After School Calendar and additional program fliers attached
 - Over half the MYC programs are run by volunteers!!!
 - CPR, Dance
 - The Library is running the Book Club and brings their program to MYC
 - Lovin' Spoonfuls, weekly food pickup
 - Hockomock YMCA monthly food access program truck with 200 lbs. of food to distribute for up to 16 families
 - Boxing program run by the Truancy Officer brings good communication with MYC staff creating partnership with the schools and safer environment at MYC
 - Football coach will help connect kids to businesses for employment.
 - He suggested the Board vote to approve if kids don't show up for school, they cannot attend the Youth Center that day either.
 - Members discussed that schools cannot tell MYC directly but school communication is on MYC permission form. MYC has to ask the school for attendance.
 - Amazon Community Together program
 - If they have employees who are out of work on an injury, they will come work at the Youth Center to assist with projects.
 - Amazon will visit MYC 2/8 for a site visit to see how the center operates with 4 full-time staff and part-time staff.
- b. Attendance, dinner and snack numbers: Jan 2023 – see attachment
104 youths daily; 27 dinners daily; 25 snacks daily. February so far - 40 dinners daily

2. Building Updates:

- a. Renovation litigation:
 - i. Gym Floor relief cut to be done 1/12/23 Finished 2/7/23 thanks to Jay Vaz!
 - ii. Waiting on agreement to do Lobby floor - not yet done. Needs a relief as well.
 - iii. Outside work to start on April 3, 2023
- b. Music/Multipurpose Media Center - 2/15/23 @10 am - Bid walkthrough
Town Engineer and architect will approve within the next couple of months. Jay Vaz and Carlos will be there in case issues arise.
- c. HVAC project in progress to heat the Gym –Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts meeting grant for \$115,250.00 – contract signed and scheduling.

3. Donation/Grant Updates:

- a. See newsletter for monthly updates for misc. donations: <https://conta.cc/3HLw2Mp>
 - i. YouthWorks Grant budget submitted: Tier 2: \$16.25/hr: Goal 20 students – entry level placements
 - ii. Tier 3: \$17.50/hr: Goal 10 students returning and good career fit path
 - iii. Tier 4: \$18.75/hr: Goal 3-5 participants with potential employment after summer
- The grant changed a lot from last year. It used to be all youth received minimum wage regardless of where they were positioned. We are partnering with the schools. Returning youth workers will get the Tier 3 pay rate. This is free employment over the summer for local businesses. Members were asked to recommend businesses who want to employ students.

4. Other Events:

- a. MYC March Madness: Mondays & Wednesdays in March, tournament (300 kids/day in March).
 - 41 youths registered as of 2/7.
 - Participation is 70% male, 30% female.
 - Members discussed how to address the lack of female participation.
 - Promote that youths do not have to be MYC members to participate.
 - They can receive free tee-shirts and trophies.
- b. YMCA Golf Tourney – Friday, May 5, 2023 (Cinco de Mayo)

5. Rentals: Current and future rentals/MYC programs: <https://tinyurl.com/MYCrentals>

- Ms. Stienstra reported \$32,000 in revenue for January.
- The March estimated revenue is \$10,000.
- The revenue goal this year is \$50,000.
- We have a potential year-round volleyball rental. Milford programs will come first.

6. Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 6:15

Adjourn

Motion: B. Rickert moved to adjourn the meeting at 7: 30 pm.

Seconded: J. Vaz

Roll Call Vote: A. Bryan, yes; C. Calagione, yes; S. Caproni, yes; C. Crean, yes;
S. Darling, yes; D. Dulude, yes; J. Dulude, yes; B. Rickert, yes; J. Vaz, yes.
None opposed.

Motion Carries: 9-0

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Michaud, Recording Secretary

The listing of matters above are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may be discussed, and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Name

Date

Milford Youth Center
Meeting Minutes, 2/7/23

Documents used

- MYC Agenda 2/7/23
- MYC Meeting Minutes 1/10/23
- MYC Funds Report
- Golf Tournament Flyer 5/5/23
- After-School, Snack and Dinner Program
- Hockomock YMCA Mobile Food Pantry
- Senior Walking Flyer
- March Madness Tournament Flyer
- MYC February Calendar
- CPR Flyer, 2/8/23
- Dance Flyer
- Book Club Flyer
- Lovin' Spoonfuls Food Rescue Flyer
- Kids' Play Flyer
- Adult Open Gym Flyer