



TOWN OF MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MILFORD YOUTH CENTER
MILFORD YOUTH COMMISSION
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Milford Youth Commission Minutes
In-Person Meeting

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021

Time: 6:15pm

Location: Milford Youth Center - Conference Room, 2nd Floor
24 Pearl St., Milford, MA 01757

Members present in person: Ariea Bryan, Paige Brown, Darlene Dulude, John Dulude, Sandra Caponi, Chuck Calagione, Brendan Rickert, RJ Sheedy, Jay Vaz

On-Phone Members Present: Steve Sousa, Michelle Stokes

MYC Employees Present: Jen Ward, Emily Barnes

- Meeting called to order by Brendan Rickert at 6:18pm, seconded by Sandra Caponi, and all in favor via roll call.
- Finance Committee liaison David Lavigne in attendance.
- Brendan Rickert noting a change in procedure to have Board chairperson lead the meeting going forward, with the input of MYC director & staff, instead of the reverse.
- Motion by Sandra Caponi to approve the Minutes dated 8/9/2021, seconded by Paige Brown, and all in favor via roll call.
- Motion by Ariea Bryan to approve the Minutes dated 8/18/2021, seconded Sandra Caponi, and all in favor via roll call.
- Steve Sousa request to change monthly meeting day to second Thursday of each month, due to recurring work conflict. Motion to approve by Darlene Dulude, seconded by Steve Sousa, and all in favor via roll call.
- RJ Sheedy arrived late at 6:23pm.

- Brendan Rickert review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles:
 - HVAC - Jen Ward review of Finance Committee's recommendation to combine remaining projects (gym & basement ventilation/dehumidification) for budget purposes. Finance Committee liaison David Lavigne mentioned possible grant to offset costs, Jen ward confirmed Francoise Eloise is working on grant proposal which will help offset COVID related increase in material costs. Grant cannot be submitted until post bid once an accurate final cost is available. Motion to approve by Jay Vaz, seconded by Ariea Bryan, all in favor via roll call (RJ Sheedy abstained due to late arrival).
 - Request to limit amount of MYC board members to 9 vs. 21 - Brendan Rickert review. Board is currently at 11 and will reach 9 via attrition over time. No other known community boards (outside of Milford) have 21 members, the next largest is 11. RJ Sheedy stated Milford Finance Board is currently at 15, Chuck Calagione agreed and stated their goal is to reach 13 via attrition. Chuck Calagione stated original intention of MYC's maximum of 21 members was created to allow for youth involvement. Town of Brookline has as set number of board seats and a set number of youth seats. RJ Sheedy stated his belief that MYC's Board request to limit number of members to 9 is a political move due to the influx of 7 applications. Chuck Calagione then restated the MYC's Board's prior discussion that 21 members is too many and would make meetings/voting cumbersome. Motion by Steve Sousa to approve the article language for submission to Town Meeting, seconded by Chuck Calagione, all in favor via roll call (RJ Sheedy voted against (No)).
- Jen Ward review of email exchange with Town Counsel (Attorney Boddy) regarding possible Open Meeting Law violations when Board was full remote during COVID. Issue is considered dropped after (3) email follow ups by Jen Ward and no response from Attorney Boddy. Possible lack of response due to proof of public Zoom links & recordings, notices and meeting minutes. Chuck Calgione suggested other MYC board members attend in person meetings with Attorney Boddy, alongside Jen Ward, as he believes it will be more supportive of her and overall more productive.
- Brendan Rickert informed the Board that the town intends to provide members with town email accounts to better serve the community. It is unclear when this will be implemented but everyone will have to sign a privacy form to have the email account.
- Jen Ward review of Director Report: Revolving fund balance review of approximately \$64,000. Motion by Brendan Rickert to approve (4) warrants - (2) revolving and (2) maintenance, seconded by RJ Sheedy, and all in favor via roll call.
- Jen Ward review of Grants: 1.) YouthWorks grant ends in October but not all of it has been spent - originally for 25 kids, but only used it for 20 kids due to uncontrollable reasons. 2.) Francoise Eloise continues to break ground with Agnes Fund and DCU Fund. DCU Fund has possible conflict with MYC and United Way affiliation, but were so impressed with the grant proposal they are still attempting to find a way to appropriate funds to MYC.

- Jen Ward review of architect search for Multipurpose Media Center. She reached out to Lobisser Building Corporation on the suggestion of Milford TV, as they did work on their renovated studio. Lobisser is not quoting the work as they don't do the design themselves for these type of spaces. Jen Ward is only seeking their help in directing her to the architects and designers that they used for Milford TV. Jen Ward also reached out to MJH Architects, who did the design work for the dance and movie room to get a quote on the design work for the future Multipurpose Media Center. Jen Ward has not heard back from Lobisser after two attempts and asked the Board if they would like to proceed with MJH Architects, with previous quote provided for \$8,500.00. The Board suggested reaching out to Lobisser again and also check if MJH Architects will honor the quote. This was not sent out to bid. Jen Ward consulted with Town Administrator Richard Villani and it is her understanding that projects under \$10,000 do not need to go out to bid.
- Jen Ward review of After School registrations. (134) registrations are in with (72) kids in the building today. They have been reminding kids to arrive with masks and to register online in advance, which has been an issue. There has been a long line of kids at the door needing paper registrations logged. Jen Ward suggested communicating that registrations need to be in before 1:00pm each day and kids cannot enter building without a completed registration.
- Jen Ward review of preparation for CraftRoots fundraiser on 9/17/21. More raffle donations received including Milford Youth Lacrosse, Milford Football.
- Emily Barnes review of rentals - Milford Cheer, Basketball (Aaron Anniballi), MHS Baseball have all reserved rentals for fall/early winter. Adult Open Gym begins this week on Wednesdays with alternating masked & unmasked days. Unmasked attendants must show proof of vaccination.
- Jen Ward review of Employment Updates - AmeriCorp position is still unfilled, discussed need for high school volunteers during snack and dinner, reaching out to MHS to help communicate this to students, especially those who need volunteer hours for National Honor Society and college applications. Several after school hires have been made and remaining positions are being filled. Recent hires, many of which were YouthWorks participants over the summer: Paige Osner (co-op), Jennifer Pagway (MHS student), Ingrid Barbosa (MHS), Tayvon Robinson (MHS), Tristan Cumming (BVT). Discussed increasing the hourly pay from \$13 to \$13.50 for rental staff to reflect increase in minimum wage.
- RJ Sheedy requested monthly meeting date be changed to the first Thursday of the month (vs. send Thursday previously agreed on at beginning of meeting, prior to his late arrival). Next meeting date will now be 10/7/21 at 6:15pm
- Motion by Steve Sousa to adjourn at 7:36pm, seconded by RJ Sheedy, and all in favor via roll call

Next meeting scheduled for October 7, 2021 at 6:15 pm.