

Bedford Youth & Family Services Committee Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Attendance: Sue Baldauf, Director, Peter Ricci, Chair, Marcia Morgan, At Large, Dori Pulizzi, At Large, Marge Heckman, At Large, Ann Guay, School Committee, Mary Seymour, Board of Health, Jeff Wardwell, Police

Minutes: Minutes of January 10th meeting approved with one correction.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants Update

- The Bedford Dash Program will end in June. Awaiting the Regional Transit Authority report. Three towns (Bedford, Burlington and Lexington) are examining their transportation systems. Ideas under consideration: a senior bus for medical appointments and a loop bus that runs Great Road.
- Bike Rodeo Day at Lane School on May 7th from 11-1. Trying to obtain bikes. Some consideration was given to sponsoring a combined Car Seat/Bike Day but it is no longer an option. A Car Seat Safety Day may be scheduled in May. Police and Rotary are working together on these projects.

Programming

- In discussions with parent organizations about offering a program in the spring focused on Teen Partying like one offered in Winchester. Program on Anxiety may be offered as well.
- Faces of Bedford will be featured at Town Meeting and then at the high school in the display cases.
- May change the after-school programs: JGMS now oversees Homework Club and Girl Talk Program. Bedford TV needs more money to fund the Middle School Group and is considering going through the Recreation Department. BYFS is still offering a babysitting class.

Veterans' Services

- Veterans agent moved out of BYFS to the Town Hall under the purview of the Manager's office and is overseen by the Asst. Town Manager.
- One of the issues raised by Town Manager was a lack of adequate space for 1:1 sessions with Veterans. Committee will send a letter which raises Committee's concerns about oversight change and request an update on Veterans' Services.

Other Fuel Assistance Program ends for the season in March

NEW BUSINESS

BYFS FY 2020 budget was presented to Finance Committee. It was \$300K less than FY2019 due to Veterans' Services move to Town Manager's Office.

Article 34 YFS Bylaw Review was discussed by group again and thought adequate as is.

Other Fin Com had questions about YFS at the budget presentation along with questions of health and recreation, and Sue reported that these groups met with the Town Manager to discuss coordination and publicity about services and programs.

Updates from Committee Participants

School Committee – Ann Guay

- Reported election of Jill Marquis to Bedford School Committee and spoke about the Assistant Superintendent search.
- Provided an update on the English Language Learner Program presentation by Carrie Powers, the ELL Director. ELL Program created an ELL Program for Parents. Currently, there are more than 52 languages spoken in the district. More than 50 parents signed up and there is a wait list for others who want to attend. ELL teachers are volunteering time to teach.
- New school year calendar approved by School Committee. Classes will start after Labor Day.

Bedford Police – Jeff Wardwell

- Explained impact of Juvenile Law Reform. Adult at age 18. Police will no longer arrest individuals driving with out a license or possession of alcohol. In these instances, person will be sent to diversion program.
- Kristen Dineen is School Resource Officer at JGMS, a position she held before. Jeff continues as SRO at BHS. Both of them split Davis and Lane. A change in practice re: SROs. When a student is acting out of control, SRO can escort the student out of school but cannot arrest.
- Middlesex County Sheriff Safety Camp – Bedford children can attend the week of August 5th.
- Rec Basketball playoffs for Police League underway.
- Bedford Green may be adding a building at the VA for homeless veterans over age 55.
- Parking at BHS remains a problem. Students who park in library spaces are issued warnings.
- Craig Naylor is assigned to Middlesex Community College.

Board of Health – Mary Seymour

- Flu Update: 32 reported cases, 14 clinics, 1100 vaccines given / 17 received flu mist. Folks under 30 least likely to be vaccinated.
- 1 Active TB Case in Bedford. Hepatitis A outbreak reported in Boston.
- Preventive Fall Program Update: Falls pamphlet distributed. New COA Social Worker will help with project. Grant expires in June. Unclear if it will be continued. Current program provides bars installed in homes and electric chairs.
- 2013 Food Code Training Completed 100% attendance.
- Change in Mosquito Commissioner – Heidi Porter
- Interns: Nurse intern from Regis and DPH Interns joining Board of Health

Youth & Family Services.

- There is a continued wait list for clinical counselling. A new counselor will be starting soon.
- Awaiting appointment of Selectman Liaison to Committee
- Sue announced her plans to retire at end of fiscal year or early July due to travel plans. Group discussed transition and expressed gratitude and support for Sue.

Scouting Update – Peter Ricci

- Enrollment is down for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Concern that inability to send flyers in backpacks advertising signs ups and activities is impacting enrollment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Next meeting: May 9, 2019 Clerk: Marcia Morgan