**Harwich Youth Services Committee**

**December 19, 2022**

**Meeting minutes**

In attendance: Jeff Craig (chair), Joy Jordan (clerk), Becky Craig, Sheila House, Annalise Langelier, Meredith Henderson

Called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Meredith Henderson moved to approve minutes, Joy Jordan seconded

Vote: Unanimous approval of minutes

**Youth Counselor’s Report**

* Bustling caseload, youth with holiday stress and anxiety in addition to existing concerns
* Had a meeting with various town officials re: opioid abatement funding that the town will receive and how it will be used; other cases are still pending so more funds may be available in the future
* Barnstable County is releasing an assessment of what is spent on addiction, treatment, recovery, prevention, etc. Will be released soon. Consensus is that prevention needs to be an increasing focus
* Sheila will request funding for the Save A Life tour to visit the high school again, in spring prior to prom for 11th and 12th graders
* Harwich Children’s Fund purchased winter gear (coats, hats, gloves) for 170 Harwich youth this year (started at 69 a few years back)
  + Having a table at the stroll helped sign up new shoppers which helped make that possible
* Girl Power is starting up again with 3rd and 4th grade students; begin in late January for 6 weeks

**January social at Harwich Community Center 1/20/22**

* Laser tag from amazing gaming
* Chatham Community Center team will support in addition to Harwich Community Center staff
* Water jugs from Harwich Rec
* Arts and Crafts room
* We have use of gym for laser tag, room for arts and crafts, game room
* High school student volunteers from NHS and Interact
* Food in multipurpose room

**Adventure-based learning update**

* Jeff Craig met with Eric Beebe (Recreation Director) about the project and Eric was very enthusiastic. The land identified is owned by town and zoned for recreation use
* Jeff will begin to draft a presentation for the Recreation Commission
* Eric noted that Community Preservation funds would be ideal and appropriate for this project and he has had good success with it in the past
* Jeff would like to present at the end of January to the Rec Commission
* Meredith recounted her discussion with school officials, who were supportive of the project and also noted that it seemed more appropriate for a town project
* Jeff suggested holding a spring social event at the middle school gym to introduce students and families to the equipment and the idea of the proposed project, so that people will understand the project and hopefully be supportive
* Meredith mentioned a previous program held during the summer where students spent a few days on the equipment and caregivers could come in and see – another potential idea
* Jeff noted that the idea is to show what currently is available and to then expand on that with even more opportunities for adventure-based learning
* Meredith will reach out to Kathy Andrews (MRMS PE teacher, who is certified to lead Project Adventure activities/classes) to brief her on the proposed project, as her expertise will be helpful moving forward, to be a complement to what already exists at MRMS

**Ideas for spring social**

* See Jeff’s idea above
* Possible kickball event?
  + Challenge to adapt to first responders schedules. Other adult groups? Parents/caregivers? Mariners? Teachers? Combine teams so it’s not just kids vs adults but interspersed
  + Location? Chatham? Veterans field?
  + Will discuss more at next meeting

**New business**

* Meredith spoke to Amy Young about her and her husband potentially joining the committee; will follow up after the first of the year

Next meeting January 17, 2023, or January 18, 2023 since January 16 is Martin Luther King Day – Jeff will check with town on the availability on either of those two nights

Motion to adjourn from Meredith, Joy seconded

Vote to adjourn is unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.