

## Meeting Minutes

Date: July 27, 2023

1. Roll Call
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting
3. Welcome New Members
4. July Events:
  - a. Summer Creative Program

Going very well, the fire marshal came to do safety presentation, looking forward to doing more collaborations in the future. Next presentation is hidden gem on main, want to advertise this program to youth aged 10-14, Tuesday / Thursdays 12-2.
  - b. Parent Group

Month of July - no moms showed up, difficult to gain support, interest is expressed but there is no turn out. Debating taking a break until school year starts or reevaluating the need of the community for the group.
  - c. Cancer Support Group

A lot of buzz and support from the community but no community members showed up. Talk of maybe changing the name to enhance the response/ turn out from community.  
Decided to give this 6 more month in attempt to raise support and awareness surrounding the group.  
Support group for men with women in their lives who has cancer as men in the community have expressed there is no support. Promote this to families in need of this.
  - d. YSS Work Program

This group is making progress assisting the coalition in finalizing their office space as well as working together to aid in differing tasks for the What's in the Bag Community Day event.

#### 5. Garden Market

Coalition is doing two more days at the garden market for the season. Some days there is a very good turnout, other days there is not much success. Although, there has been conversation with members of the community - the coalition spoke with an individual who would be interested in discussing the concern of overdoses within the community.

#### 6. Life Is Good - Merch Update, Future

No intention of removing relationship at this time. Sales are moving very slowly, popular sizes are minimal and do not meet the needs of the community. Discounted a lot of supply in order to reduce the number of unwanted sizes. Hopeful to place an order mid-august to get stocked for the winter season. Wants to raise enough money to increase this supply. Want to enhance displays and marketing process to increase sales.

#### 7. What's in the Bag

45 confirmed people within the community who are tabling the event, getting an ice cream truck with a donation from Kenny, slowly getting raffle prizes in, looking for more advertisement for prizes and wanting at least 25- currently only has 4. Prizes do not need to come off the amazon list, Y SS youth wore coalition polos and shared the event with several local businesses.

-Health department update -discussed partnership with FD, confirmation with parks & rec, cert team, scow performances, and planning of activities.

#### 8. Miles for MH - Update

Proceeds donated to the coalition from the 5k for \$3 800, Will be doing some sort of thank you to Molly and Adam for collaborating with the Coalition.

## 9. Training updates and Opportunities

Beginning to do chats at the senior center, training regarding Narcan and how to identify an overdose. The coalition has been offered to be trained in suicide awareness and prevention, this is important as there have been two suicides within the community on the same day. Very important to remember why we do the things we do. Crucial to get the community involved and raise awareness.

Dianne spoke with Ken and was provided with resources from mention prevention and passed this onto YSS and the health department.

Disappointed with the response from informed departments and wants to work closely with these departments to equip everyone with necessary mental health trainings. Mental health programs within the school system are necessary. Coalition would love to work together on this with anyone willing.

## 10. Wallingford Week Safety - Collaboration with YSS

Collaboration with Gary Redman for Monday - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm safety event (back to school safety kick off, hidden in plain sight demonstration, stranger danger meeting, bike safety, fire and safety demo, car seat safety day) Event is for the purpose to have a safe school year.

Relay and report back to community on the dangers of tik tok shop. Interest in doing a PSA on Facebook or socials to raise awareness for parents.

## 11. Upcoming Community Events

-Looking for volunteers and support from Coalition members to begin participating in more events. Need help for What's in the Bag Community Day — they have floaters for the event to guide families around.

-Looking for more volunteers for Celebrate Wallingford.

- YSS collab for safety programs upcoming
- Movie night to raise awareness for drugs and alcohol abuse, how to spot this - first three weeks in October.
- Zion Scarecrow festival family day October 21 10-3pm

12. Treasurer Report - Karen

- Similar to second quota from 2022.

13. Town Official Updates

Unable to hear beginning comment. Not much other to say as school is not in session. There will be resources provided for students and families as needed throughout the school year regarding suicide prevention and awareness. Need for information spread to the community. Contact superintendent to be able to stay in the loop with families.

- Schools are having trouble hiring mental health counselors.
- There is money now set aside for marijuana prevention and recovery.

14. Round Table

- Make sure everyone in town knows what 988 is to be able to talk with mental health counselors Advertise on billboard are wanted.
- Drug education and awareness are directed toward school aged children.

15. Adjournment

16. Optional Narcan Training for active Coalition Members