

**TOWN OF CROMWELL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024 6:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – Gayle Ivy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL** – Sarah Calos, Jessica Zeedyk, Hope Fiondella, Gayle Ivy, Maggie Schufer, Detective Tolton, Hailey Stone, Gavin Kusmider, Stanley Kusmider, Paula Luna, Suzanne Rutner, and Barbara McClane.

**3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA** – A motion to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting agenda was made by Maggie Schufer. Seconded by Barbara McClane.

**4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** - A motion to approve the January 26, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Maggie Schufer. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Family Resource Expo & Preschool Showcase March 7, 2024** – Sarah explained that the expo will be local for families to attend and learn more about area resources and preschools. She added that there will be more than 30 vendors, a free raffle, and giveaways. She asked the board to volunteer to help at the event and to help promote the event.

**b. YAB poster contest** – Sarah reported that the Cromwell Middle School administration has shared the Youth Advisory Board Poster Contest with students. Hailey Stone reported that students have not received a paper copy of the contest rules. She added that the contest has only been announced by a loudspeaker and flyers posted in hallways. Sarah said she would bring some color copies to the school and also reported that to date there are no submissions.

**c. Volunteer opportunities** – Sarah presented current programs that board members could attend. Jess explained the volunteer opportunities that were needed for the Family Resource Expo. A sign-up sheet was passed around to board members to sign up to help.

**d. FY 2025 budget** – Sarah reported that the Youth Services proposed budget was approved by the Town Manager. She listed some of the proposed budget items, including a recording clerk for the Youth Advisory Board, and additional funding for the Juvenile Review Board. Sarah added that she will advise the group when the Town Council Budget meeting will take place, and asked for them to attend and voice their support.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Dalio Education report discussion** - Sarah explained that the Dalio report is a study of Connecticut's at-risk and disconnected young people. The report recommends solutions to communities, such as assessing the need in one's community to increase services. Sarah suggested the board read the report and spread the word to encourage positive change.

**7. STANDING REPORTS**

a. Schools – Andrea Middlebrooks was not present but provided the following report:

- The CMS Jazz Band & Select Choir hosted their winter concert on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A series of dress-down days will take place on Wednesday to offset the cost of the end-of-the-year 8th-grade activities.
- The drive for animal care products took place last week.
- The Black History Month Showcase will take place at CHS on 2/23 from 6-8 pm where samples of student work from all schools will be on display.
- The Youth Advisory Board Poster Contest announcement is in rotation (morning & afternoon). This was also featured on our CMS Student News this Thursday, 2/15/24.

b. Youth Services – Sarah reported the following.

- 520 valentines were collected from Cromwell Middle School, Cromwell High School, and the community. The Valentines were distributed to local Veterans organizations in time for Valentine's Day. Sarah added that the Valentines were all very well done with heartfelt messages.
- Origami paper was sent to 21 families for the 1,000 Paper Crane DIY kit. The kits included paper instructions as well as a video.
- A Narcan Training took place on February 6 and was presented by the CT Clearinghouse. The training lasted a half hour, 19 residents signed up, the training was free and attendees received free Narcan upon completion.
- 9 youth were in attendance for the Babysitters Training on 2/9/24.
- Upcoming programs include Family Plant Night, Family Paint Night, QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Family Vision Boards, and Girl Talk.

c. Town Council – Paula Luna reported on the following:

- The Cromwell Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on February 21, 2024, at 4:30 pm.
- The Mayor and Town Manager will co-publish a monthly newsletter for the local newspaper.
- Town Council Budget Workshops will be on March 3, 4, and 11.
- Public Works has a new Curbside Bulk Pickup Pilot Program which allows residents to schedule an at-home, curbside pick-up on Wednesdays and Fridays. This program has a cost ranging from \$2.50 - \$20, per item.

d. Police Department – Detective Tolton reported on the following:

- Detective Jeremy Perlini was promoted to Patrol Sergeant on February 20.
- Two female Officers have plans to transfer from other Connecticut Police Departments to the Cromwell Police Department.
- Officer Pietraroia will begin D.A.R.E. later in February.
- Car thefts and break-ins are still on the rise.
- Phone and internet scams are on the rise.
- The Town will be working with DMHAS to try and stop local businesses from

illegally selling THC to minors.

- The Cromwell Police Department will be participating in the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign for Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- Detective Tolton will be holding threat assessment workshops for local businesses.
- As of July 21, Detective Tolton will return to patrol.
- CPD is selling t-shirts to the community to raise money and they are available for purchase at the Cromwell Police Department.

e. Youth

- Hailey reported that the bike rack situation discussed at a previous meeting is still an issue. Gayle suggested Hailey write a letter to the Board Of Education and Gayle offered to proofread it for her.

## **8. CITIZEN REPORT**

- Maggie Schufer reported that she will be playing with her band at the Coffee House Event on 2/24/24, presented by the Cromwell Arts Alliance.
- Barbara McClane reported that she held a Vision Board Workshop at the Cromwell Senior Center.

## **9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION**

- Jess shared she is going to Disney.
- Hailey shared that she is going to lead a horse schooling show.
- Detective Tolton shared his son and daughter's sports accomplishments.
- Suzanne shared information about the Cromwell Arts Alliance Coffee House Event taking place on February 24 at the Cromwell Belden Public Library from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.
- Gayle shared she is recovering from a skin cancer removal surgery.

**10. ADJOURN** - A motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Rutner at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.

*Recording clerk, Jessica Zeedyk*