

**TOWN OF CROMWELL**  
**Youth Advisory Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**Town Hall Lower Level with Zoom option**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Margaret Schufer called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

**2. ROLL CALL**

In attendance are Sarah Maffiolini, Jessica Zeedyk, Margaret Schufer, Paula Luna, Suzanne Rutner, Detective Jason Tolton, Gayle Ivy, Jason Barber, and Kyle Pierson.

**3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA**

Suzanne Rutner motioned to approve the February 21, 2023 Meeting Agenda. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.

**4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**a. Prior Meeting: 1.17.2023-** Detective Tolton motioned to approve the January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Recruiting new members-** Sarah propped purchasing clothing with the Cromwell Youth Services logo for the Youth Advisory Board members in order to advertise and get the word out to the public. Paula suggested t-shirts and Detective Tolton suggested polo shirts. Navy blue was suggested and agreed upon by the group, with the Cromwell Youth Services logo in white. A discussion was had about adding wording such as advisory board member or volunteer on the back of the shirt.

**b. Family Resource and Preschool Expo - volunteers needed -** Sarah presented the list of vendors that would be attending the Family Resource and Preschool Expo. A discussion was had about the raffle prizes that have been donated, and the preschools that would be attending. Sarah requested assistance from the board members to get the word out to the community to attend the event and also requested volunteers to help before and during the event. The adult board members all committed to distributing the flyers.

**c. Summer community safety event-** Sarah revisited the idea of attending the Cromwell Recreation Summer Concert Series, or the Cromwell Farmers Market. She mentioned discussing dates once recreation's Spring/Summer Brochure is completed.

**d. Cromwell Community Center-** Sarah suggested that the Youth Advisory Board members write a letter of support for the Community Center, addressed to the Town Council. Gayle suggested including the youth's ideas discussed at previous meetings, and Detective Tolton suggested we ask the CAYAK Club to be involved. It was also suggested by Suzanne to start a draft during the meeting. Jessica

transcribed ideas presented by the group and suggested that members email her with ideas to include in a draft.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. YAB fundraising** - Sarah proposed that the Youth Advisory Board raise funds and offered two proposals for what the group could raise funds for. A discussion was had about how the group could raise funds that included the following:

- Stop & Shop donations, giving customers the option to round up their bill.
- Selling food and/or items, or holding a raffle at Cromwell's summer concerts, movies or farmers market.
- Requesting corporate donations to places such as Amazon, Dollar Tree, or Walmart.
- Restaurants give back nights, at places such as Dairy Queen, Chili's, Tall Man's Ice Cream or Patty Cakes Bakery.

Sarah discussed some logistics such as the exchange of money, needing approval from the Cromwell Health Department for food items, and getting permission from the Cromwell Recreation Department to attend summer events.

**i. Community mini grants** - See attached proposal #1

**ii. CHS Scholarship** - See attached proposal #2

## **7. STANDING REPORTS**

**a. Youth Services** - Sarah reported that over 500 valentines were collected for the Valentines for Veterans program and that they were all distributed to local veterans agencies. She also reported that in February the department held a Family Plant Night, Home Alone Safety Workshop, and a Babysitters Safety Training and that all of the program's registrations were full. She also said that on February 9, the Kin Care Connection group met and that there were 7 adults and 4 children present.

**b. Town Council** - Paula Luna reported that the Cromwell Middle School Building Committee reported to the Cromwell Town Council that the project is currently \$17 million over approved referendum. She added that the Town Council advised the CMS Building Committee to find ways to cut costs, to get closer to the approved budget. Paula also reported that the Climate and Culture Assessment Study of Cromwell Town Employees is wrapping up and that the Town Council would be updated on the study's progress at a special call meeting on Wednesday, February 22.

**c. Police Department** - Detective Tolton reported that the Cromwell Police Department is in the hiring process and looking to recruit new officers. He added that School Resource Officer Brooks is moving to patrol and that as a result, Detective Tolton will be the temporary D.A.R.E. instructor, and he and Officer Pietraroia will take care of security at the schools. He advised that the community should lock doors of homes and cars, never leave valuables in cars, and exchange items they are selling or buying at the Cromwell Police Department to avoid being a victim of a crime. A discussion was had about the role of the SROs in the summer months and another discussion was had about the new cannabis laws as it relates to DUI's.

**d. Youth** - Jason Barber suggested advertising volunteer opportunities to highschoolers as earned hours to meet graduation requirements. Detective Tolton made a suggestion to recruit members at a younger age, possibly at grade 5, to get them to be involved through middle and high school.

**8. CITIZEN REPORT** - No citizen reports.

**9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION** - Margaret shared that she is playing guitar with a group at the Coffee House event presented by Cromwell Arts Alliance on Saturday, February 25th.

**10. ADJOURN** - A motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Rutner at 7:53 PM. Seconded by Margaret Schufer.

*Jessica Zeedyk, Recording Clerk*

### **Proposal #1**

\$1,000 to offer a yearly scholarship to a Cromwell High School student. Each year Cromwell High School coordinates local scholarships for the graduating class. The YSB scholarship would support a young adult's passion for continuing their education. The Youth Advisory Board would determine the award recipients.

### **Proposal #2**

\$1,000 to offer four mini-grants of \$250 per application to Cromwell community groups or individuals either led by or intended to benefit youth ages 5-18 in Cromwell. Qualifying groups/individuals must plan to facilitate a project or program which fulfills 1 of 3 categories; 1) out-of-school time, i.e., before or after school initiatives, 2) positive youth development programming, 3) service-learning initiatives. Mini-grants may not be used for religious instructions, for materials not directly related to this program/project, capital expenses, or donations to other organizations. The Youth Advisory Board would determine the award recipients.

## **Youth Services February 2023 Report**

### **Valentines for Veterans –**

- Community activity on 1/30 (rescheduled due to snow) with 20 participants and 2 veterans.
- Over 500 handmade cards collected and donated to local veteran organizations.

Family Fun Night – Planting 2/3 – full with 30 participants.

Home Alone Safety Class 2/6 – full with 12 participants.

February Kin Care Connection 2/9 – 7 adult participants, 4 in childcare.

Babysitters Safety Class 2/21 – full with 15 participants.

Service Review Team - 1 new referral.

Juvenile Review Board 1 new referral. 1 case closed. 4 open cases. JRB Case Manager hired 1/31.

Diaper Bank – 5 users, 6 children served.

### **Upcoming Activities**

Family Resource and Preschool Expo 3/2, snow date 3/9.

Love 146 parent/caregiver training 3/28 – end child trafficking and exploitation.

Cromwell Prevention & Awareness Council initiatives

- Cannabis in CT presentation to CMS & CHS Health Teachers TBD.