

# **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Friends of Wayland Youth and Family Services**

held at 7:00pm on October 23, 2017  
at the Wayland Town Building

**Attendance:** Deb LaPierre, president; Eliza Mosurick, clerk; Eileen Wilson; and Jason Verhoosky, WYFS

**Guest:** Rebecca Smoler, Wayland Community for Social Justice

## **Agenda items:**

### *TOLERANCE PROGRAMMING: Difficult Conversations Workshop recap*

Total participation is estimated at over 50, with 38 people signed in. Feedback to the survey WCSJ distributed was so far limited, but has been mostly positive. The main observations were that the breakout groups could have been longer (or smaller, in one case) and there is strong interest in a follow up event. One idea would be for adults to talk to each other about issues of race and identity.

Other potential speakers/workshops would require more financial commitment. Wayland Democrats have expressed interest in bringing in Debby Irving, the author of "Waking Up White", for a conversation about white privilege. The documentary "I'm not a Racist.... Am I?" by teens of different backgrounds can only be shown if their team comes to run the workshop.

Another topic of discussion in most or all of the breakout sessions was the METCO program. As Wayland is proud of its decision to be a METCO community, and many parents are interested, but unsure of how, to become more involved or supportive, perhaps a future program could educate people on the history and current status of the METCO partnership. Rebecca is already planning a follow-up email to Mabel Reid-Wallace, who attended the workshop, and will include this idea in her note. [ACTION ITEM]

### *WAYLAND YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE*

A new clinician, Kelsey Sanclemente, has begun seeing clients.

## **FRIENDS BUSINESS**

Jason brought documents to be signed, including paperwork to maintain our 501(c)(3) status. Jane Griffen was removed as a Director; Eileen Wilson was added. Kristi Mabe remains as Treasurer, but Deb will ask Katie or Lynn if they would be interested in the role.

As part of an effort to recruit new friends, Eileen offered to host a party at her house in January, date TBD. [AGENDA ITEM] Food and wine will be served. Friends will publicize in eNews and All School News, asking people to RSVP. The location will be provided to those who reply. It was proposed that Friends create a gmail address for situations like this, so inquiries would not be sent to anyone's personal account (although email could be set to forward to Deb or another designee). Rebecca will share the emails of workshop attendees, so they can be invited. [ACTION ITEM]

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## ***MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL POT SHOPS***

To date, the warrant for Town Meeting has not been printed, but the articles have been accepted. Jason received a lot of feedback about the informational mailing distributed by Wayland Cares.

Points to keep in mind for conversations leading up to the vote include:

- The article is sponsored by the Youth Advisory Committee. It was certified by the Zoning Board, and has support of the Finance Committee, Selectmen, and Planning Board.
- This vote is simply for a six month pause in action, to allow time for the Zoning Board, Public Health Department, and law enforcement to perform additional studies on the impact of recreational pot sales in Wayland. Further, it enables the Town to wait for guidance from the Cannabis Control Commission.
- The tax revenue will be limited. In order to reduce the incentives for a black market in marijuana, the tax on pot sales has been capped at 20%, paid out as follows: 10% to the state general fund, 7% to the Cannabis Control Commission, and 3% to the municipality. [CONFIRM] Early analysis indicates this will barely cover additional governance and enforcement costs.

There is an educational discussion at Claypit Hill School in the evening on November 1st. Jason will provide an overview of the products typically sold and their potency. He will also offer suggestions for how to talk with kids about marijuana and pot products, including handling uncomfortable situations and safe strategies. There will also be information about the brain science of early pot use. Wayland Police will have a representative attending. The presentation is expected to last 30 minutes, with the remainder of the evening left open for Q & A.

## **Discussion:**

A lengthy conversation occurred about the challenges of being a volunteer organization. Both WCSJ and Friends recognize the difficulty in getting people to attend an evening event, finding people who are interested and also able to commit time to planning events, and reaching new members. Another concern is raising funds to offer events with outside speakers.

A brief discussion occurred about the potential conflicts of interest or personal agendas that could come up with new members. While Friends is open to all, it is our core mission to support *all aspects* of the work done by Wayland Youth and Family Services. Additionally, we are a non-profit, so must refrain from being religious or political.

## **Summary:**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 4 at 7pm.