

**Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes**  
**5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**County Office Building, Wampsville**  
**January 3, 2017**

**Members:**

Donna Cashman, Beth Totten, Sharon Taylor, Jo Perkins, Sydney Foster, John Olmsted, Freeda Windland

**Guests:**

Emily Zaengle, Director, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park  
Mandi Millen, Agriculture Teacher, Cazenovia High School

**Staff:**

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

Introductions were made for the benefit of meeting guests.

**1. Program Presentation – Stone Quarry Hill Art Park and Cazenovia High School – The Art of Maple Syrup Production:**

Emily Zaengle and Mandi Millen presented an overview of the program. The students learned how to identify trees, measure and map the sugar bush, use buckets and tubing for syrup collection, run an evaporator, educate the public on the collection process and create a budget for the needed supplies. A variety of students were actively engaged throughout the program. Data was submitted to ESF on sugar content of trees from 50 taps on about 30 trees. The program was challenging. Students were engaged in all aspects of decision making, including the decision to take advantage of the higher price point of syrup if processed into maple candy, which is easier overall to store and process. This led the program to purchase a candy making machine. Overall there were about 75 students impacted by the program over spring and fall. Cazenovia students in Basic and Advanced Agriculture, many who are in FFA, as well as the Maple Syrup Production and Plants classes were involved. Students also engaged in brainstorming how to market the syrup and candy to their audience, who they deemed as mothers for the maple syrup and their peers for candy. Students learned skills in measuring trees using a Biltmore stick and other tools, how to tap trees, marketing, formulating budgets, and teamwork. Emily shared that the park has benefitted by drawing in the public to the event, allowing a unique collaboration with the Artist in Residence for marketing, and engaging with Mandi on the maple syrup project and utilizing Mandi's two welding classes to create two sculptures for the Art Park. Students benefitted from the variety of skills and applications learned. Emily and Mandi intend to keep the program going and thanked the Board for their generosity.

**2. Election of Officers for 2017:**

Joanne inquired if anyone would like to take on the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Sharon noted her interest as Chair with Jo and Sydney sharing the Vice Chair role.

Motion made by Beth to nominate Sharon Taylor as Chair of the Youth Board with Jo Perkins and Sydney Foster sharing the role of Vice Chair; seconded by Donna; unanimously approved. No one was interested in taking on the role of Secretary at this time, therefore Tina will continue in this role.

Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**3. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2016 meeting:**

Motion made by Jo to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting as presented; seconded by Donna; unanimously approved.

#### **4. Director's Report:**

The RFP was released the day after the last Board meeting. Four organizations showed up for the 12/14/16 information session. Several brand new organizations contacted Joanne to ask questions. One proposal is in already. We will have a pretty robust funding cycle. Proposals are due January 20<sup>th</sup>. Joanne will send electronic copies to everyone. Hard copies were requested by Sydney, John and Jo. Joanne stated for right now the basic allocation is what we have been getting. Last year the Board allocated \$55,000. The process starts in February with reading and rating proposals. The Board can make tentative allocations, but the actual funds will not be awarded until after April 1<sup>st</sup>. If the Governor does not put in a reduction the amount is not likely to change. Legislative adds will be used for Youth Bureau administration.

There is also the sole source for RHY programming. These funds are the same with a \$42,000 contract; \$27,000 from the state with \$15,000 from the county contribution. Catholic Charities has not changed their RHY proposal as they are the sole source. Unless people want to read it the Board can vote to extend their contract. The state has not monitored the RHY program yet. The RHY staff is doing OK; the only concern is that the Interim Family Home has not been utilized. Joanne believes there are kids out there that might need this services; it is more a lack of good program promotion- especially to youth. Joanne asked Sydney and John if they knew about the RHY H.E.L.P. program and they did not. Sydney stated the first time she heard about it was at the CCC meeting in Peterboro in August. John has heard related stories through the country, but did not know about the program here. Joanne feels there is a lack of good PR for the HELP program and due to that it is underutilized. The Interim Family Home has not been in use. She has heard that another home is in the works. At this time the program is not being utilized for more than case management. Joanne said that if we do not have a need for an Interim Family Home program we should not have the money, as others could use the money. No one believed this to be the case. Catholic Charities is tightly staffed with RHY so the person doing case management is also doing promotion. The person who was hired under the former Sexually Exploited Youth funding is staying on as a volunteer to help promote the program. Joanne said that at the February meeting we can discuss renewing their contract and will share with CC again the need for additional promotion.

The Board can start talking in general about proposals at the February meeting. Joanne asked the Board to think about whether they want organizations to give a 15 minute presentation highlighting their proposal with a question and answer period if needed. Joanne stated that once we see what comes in we will talk at the February meeting about whether or not presentations would be helpful.

#### **5. Youth Development Specialist's Report:**

Tina shared that the Exploring County Government program had its final session December 13<sup>th</sup>. She is now recruiting schools for the spring round. It has been challenging to get schools involved as there has been a large turnover of key school staff familiar with the content of the program. Tina will be reaching out to principals and superintendents to determine how best to move forward and to determine if credit can be offered in schools that currently do not carry credit for the program.

**6. Miscellaneous:** No content to report.

**7. Next Meeting - February 7, 2017 – 5:30 PM, Supervisor's Conference Room**

**Jo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Sydney. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis**