Litchfield Prevention Council
Meeting Minutes
Bantam Town Hall Annex
80 Doyle Road, Bantam, CT

October 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Call to Order:

Attendance:

**Members Present:** Gary Waugh, chairman, Jill Johnson, Jaime Makuc,
Matt Dyer, Jacqueline Tiul, Priscilla Jeffrey, Maria Ziello, Emma Johnson-Hollis
Present by Zoom: Tianna Lee

**Members Absent:** Coleen Kinkade,
**Others present:** Barbara Putnam, recording secretary

**School Liaison Report:** tabled until Tianna could zoom in

**Law Enforcement Liaison Report:** Desiree Peterson, the new officer, has been invited to future meetings.

** Approval of Minutes** from August 9, 2022 meeting: Revision to the Discussion and Confirmation item: to remove Jaime Macuk from the list of officials on the signature card at Union Savings.

**Treasurer Report:** The current balance is $224.63. The only check written was $300 to the LPS Red Ribbon. Federal opioid funding $5345 has been approved for 2021. 2022 funding will be about $5800.

**Public Comment:** none

**Correspondence:** Gary reported attending the leadership meeting of the Western CT Coalition, where there was a discussion of adding positive messages about the 88% who do not vape to the warnings against vaping.

The group on problem gambling reported that 17% of kids are gambling, primarily on the outcome of sports. There are ads for gambling sites on the sports shows.

**Old Business:**

**Film Series**: The New Milford Prevention Council offered a showing of the film, “Upstanders,” about a kid who committed suicide over being bullied, and the community’s reaction to the tragedy. We had a suicide a year ago, and the kids wanted more follow up about suicide afterwards.

(Tianna Lee joined the meeting by Zoom)
School Liaison Report: Tianna reported that there will be an Internet safety speaker on December 12. There is a plan to invite the author of A Better High to speak in the spring. She thanks us for the donation to Red Ribbon week, which they used for banners and kits. She reported that they are starting 7th and 8th grade peer led groups that they want to expand throughout the school system. She has asked Shannon Gollow to help get a Middle School parent on this committee.

Family Game Night: Jackie reported that 50 people of all ages attended

Wellness Fair at LCC: September 23, 2022, We were unable to man our table.

Website: Jill will talk to Harmony at Dog and Pony Design. Bob did not get to tell her that we had decided to hire her.

Calendar of Events: Theme – Kindness to Self and Others Reinforcing good behavior, giving kids agency, skills for resilience, support for friends that kids are worried about. Paying for college is a big stressor. March is Gambling month, May is Mental Health month.

Art Project at LHS to promote Mental Health and Wellness – prizes can be donations from Peaches and Cream, Arethusa, Pizza, Restaurants.

Prom Event: Scheduled to begin in February

Stacked Deck Curriculum: Gary took the training in February.

NARCAN Training: Emma can offer training to Members of the Prevention Council, Parents, school staff, churches.

Account Updates: Union Savings Bank Account Signatories are all done

Student Survey: Alison would like us to do another one. The last one was in 2020, Update: Governance of Survey, Discussions with LPS

Chair Share: Denise Raap has started a meeting with the chairs of town groups. Priscilla attended it. There will be another in the spring.

Mental Health Funding from Town via Federal Government Opioid.

Grants: Litchfield Health and Wellness is a logical partner. Gary circulated guidelines for writing grants with codes. We have applied for $8000 grant funding from Western Connecticut Coalition for vaping, gambling, coalition building, data gathering, internet safety.

New Business

Historical Society scarecrow contest: Jaime and her daughter Michaela and doing a scarecrow with the theme “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” Dr. Bob. Jill made a motion to fund $100 to the Historical Society, Matt seconded, and all voted in favor. The motion carried.
Region 6 Players program for Cinderella. Jackie moved and Gary seconded a motion to fund a $65 ad in the program. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Leadership position: We have a vacancy in the Vice Chair position, and Gary needs a Vice Chair to bounce idea off of. He asked the group to consider stepping up to this.

Best ways to communicate with group members – we collected all our cell phone numbers so that we can use group texts when we need to communicate between meetings.

Ways to honor Bob Berson – there was discussion of possibilities: kindness benches, with a fundraiser to finance the cost. An honorarium for community assets or community change makers.

Priscilla moved and Matt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03. All voted in favor and the motion carried.