



Policy Work Group
 Wednesday April 13, 2016 12:00 PM
 50 Payson Ave, 2nd Floor Conference Room
 Minutes

Strategy/ Goal	Action	Action Plan
Welcome and approval of minutes	<p><i>Present: Ruth E., Stephen L., Tilde T (Jen M from Treehouse couldn't make it), Jeff H., Christopher Lu.</i></p> <p><i>Regrets: Melinda C., Jason G.</i></p> <p>Minutes from March meeting delayed.</p>	
<p><i>Goal: decrease underage alcohol and tobacco use</i></p> <p>Issues:</p> <p>Liquor licenses</p> <p>Strengthening ordinance</p> <p>Building partnerships with liquor establishments</p> <p>Compliance checks</p>	<p>Report back on meeting with the Republican Editorial Board from Ruth and Stephen. Overall, they felt it was a positive meeting. It lasted an hour. Heather Warner, Stephen, and Ruth attended meeting. This approach seemed the best way to address questions raised by editor on our facebook page, and to include other editors and reporter, so that we could give more background info to larger group there. Freelance reporter Mary Serreze, Op-Ed Editor, another columnist and Assistant Editor Greg Saulmon were present from the Republican.</p> <p>We gave a lot of background on how draft alcohol regulations were first introduced in collaboration with Licensing Board and Jim Staples (consultant) back in 2012-13. Emphasized that the coalition does not push specific legislation but focuses on best practices in preventing underage alcohol use. There was one question about what the coalition's role would be during Marijuana ballot question---we affirmed the idea that our role is to educate and inform the public, not lobby for a yes or no.</p>	<p>May still send out letter to businesses explaining our work and the confusion around the draft regs. Ruth, Jeff and Superintendent are meeting with Moe B from Chamber of Commerce this week to discuss.</p>

	<p>Stephen also attended the Board of Health meeting in early March to re-introduce the coalition and highlight our ongoing interest in policies that support restricting youth access, particularly raising legal age to 21 and banning flavored tobacco (outside adult only stores).</p> <hr/> <p>SADD Chapter at the High School is currently waiting on the e-cigarette/ENDS data they collected at the high school to be sent back to them from 84.org. Part of their grant is to present it to community leaders and we would like to collaborate to hold the E-Cigs forum with SADD at our next coalition meeting.</p> <hr/> <p>Chris is currently working with Easthampton PD to plan another round of compliance checks.</p>	<p>Christopher will continue to work and plan out E-Cigs forum with SADD, and plan with Officer Schadel for compliance checks</p>
<p><i>Goal: be proactive in preventing youth access to marijuana</i></p>	<p>Our outreach and education efforts need to be carefully reviewed so they continue to clearly be about education and the impact of marijuana on teens. We don't plan to focus on legalization directly, but expect there will be opportunities for ongoing education, with speakers, etc. The State Senate recently stated they will not take up the issue which means they will leave it to the ballot in November.</p> <p>Brainstorm of possible presenters who could speak to the issues of marijuana and the impact on teens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MA State Senators that went out to Colorado. -Dispensary is going up in Easthampton. Bring in someone who is part of that planning process to talk about youth access and what the dispensary will do to prevent youth access. -Doctors, people with credibility, Dr. Robert Roose, people in recovery -Doctors---advocating for people with chronic pain that can also talk about the youth access issue -Police Chief & District Attorney who are able to talk about the issues of what happens with youth if marijuana is legalized 	