Windham/Eastern Community Action Network (W/E CAN)

Town and Gown Minutes
Thursday, September 8, 2011
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Eastern Attendees: Mr. Ken Bedini, Mr. John Beck, Ms. Megan Bell, Dr. Walter Diaz, Chief Jeff Garewski, Mr. Dennis Hannon, Lt. Tom Madera, Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Dep. Chief Gregory Sneed, Mr. Ryan Rose, Mr. Angelo Simoni

Community Attendees: Mr. Neal Beets, Mr. Don and Ms. Winnie Chase, Mr. Kevin Hoxie, Ms. Heather Meehan, Mr. Joel Meyers, Ms. Shirley C. Mustard, Mr. Clifford H. Spinner, Mr. Matthew Vertefeuille,

Agenda Items in Review

1. Community Concerns.
   Noisy parties/disturbances on:
   - Chestnut Street
   - Ridgewood Street
   - Ridgewood Street

   Parking.
   - According to a community member, during the spring 2011, parking was not an issue because a parking ban had been put in place.
   - There has been an issue with parking this semester. A resident suggested that the town start ticketing and towing non-residential cars or paint the curb a different color where students cannot park.

2. Proactive efforts conducted by the University.

   - On 8/25/11, VP Ken Bedini emailed all Eastern students prior to the first day of school reminding them about good behavior off-campus, and Willimantic PD’s approach to disruptive behavior and about other university rules and regulations.
   - In August, 2011, Dean Diaz, VP Bedini, and Angelo Simoni did a hard copy mailing (200 around Willimantic, 1,000 total) to all off-campus students living in a 10-mile radius from campus between the ages of 17-26 reminding them that disruptive behavior both on and off-campus would not be tolerated. Information was provided to the students about state and local laws, regulations and ordinances that would apply to them.
The landlords present at the meeting stated that they were also talking to their tenants about respect in the community.

On 9/2/11, Dean Diaz and Angelo Simoni went and visited with the students who got arrested the previous night for negative off-campus behavior. Overall, it was a quiet Labor Day weekend.

Meet and Greet is scheduled for Monday, 9/12/11 (Angelo Simoni, Lt. Madera, Walter Diaz)

Dean Diaz and Angelo Simoni continue to meet with all students arrested for disruptive off-campus behavior the next business day. The students are getting the message that no warnings will be given, and they will be arrested and/or cited.

3. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) grant update.
   - We are conducting interviews for the University Assistant (UA) position that will assist in managing the Community Life Improvement Project (CLIP) grant in Liza Makuch’s absence. By hiring this part-time UA, it will help to ensure the continuity and overall success of the grant in the long run.
   - We are working to secure a Public Relations firm (PITA) to help with the social norms/marketing campaign we will be executing as part of the CLIP grant. We should be finalizing the contract with the PITA group next week.
   - All meeting attendees will receive a CLIP shopping bag along with a Judicial Office stress ball and Eastern potholder. All of these promotional items will be given to Eastern students during the meet and greet BBQ next week. The items have links to websites that will tell students more about the CLIP grant and link them to the Wellness Promotion off-campus student portion of the website.

4. Off-campus student/landlord/community member barbecue, 9/15/11, 5-6:30 pm, Grant House lawn.
   - All present are invited. Please RSVP to Angelo Simoni if you plan to attend. Please feel free to distribute flyers to anyone you feel would benefit from being at the barbecue. Limited parking will be available on-campus near the Grant House lawn location.
   - Tours of the Grant House will be conducted by Irene Cretella and Donna Snell. Free food, music, tours, and the chance to win gift cards to local area stores/restaurants.

Please visit the W/E CAN website, www.easternct.edu/towngown for more information and useful links.