Windham/Eastern Community Action Network (W/E CAN)
Town and Gown Minutes
Thursday, October 14th 2010
6:30-8:00PM

Eastern Attendees: Mr. Ken Bedini, Mr. Kyle Puzacke, Chief Jeff Garewski, Mr. Angelo Simoni, Dr. Walter Diaz, Mr. Dennis Hannon, Ms. Geralyn Laut, Mr. Alexander Cross, Mr. Scott Nolan, Mr. John Beck, Ms. Aliza Makuch, Mr. Per Bjornstad, Ms. Judy Frankel, and Mr. Michael Pina

Community Attendees: Ms. Shirley C. Mustard, Mr. Dick Grillo, Mr. Don and Ms. Winnie Chase, Capt. Cliff Spinner, Mr. Kevin Hoxie, Mr. Bernard D’ Auteuil, Ms. Lynne Poulos, Mr. Matthew Vertefeuille, Ms. Christel K. Donahue, Mr. Marc Scrivener, Mayor Ernie Eldridge, and Mr. Joel Meyers

Agenda items in review:

1. Community Concerns:
   - Ms. Winnie Chase explained that 14 Chestnut Street continues to be a problem and the students living there still cause a disturbance throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Ken Bedini, Vice President for Student Affairs, stated that he contacted the residents of the house and has a meeting with them early next week to discuss their behavior. Furthermore, Ms. Chase was pleased with the recent success of reducing the occurrences of off-campus parties around the local neighborhood.

   - Mr. Angelo Simoni, Director of Judicial Affairs, stated that he will accompany Dr. Walter Diaz, Dean of Students, and Mr. Matt Vertefeuille, Director of Code Enforcement on a ride-along with the Willimantic Police in the near future to experience firsthand the off-campus party problem.

   - Mr. Kevin Hoxie expressed concern about the littering problem within the Willimantic community. Recently, he picked up several beer cans and bottles found on his property from a party that occurred in his neighborhood. In accordance with this, he warned the University of off campus students having another stumbler party in the near future.

   - Mr. Joel Meyers, President of the Concerned Landlords Association, stated that he spoke with several landlords personally concerning the ongoing issue of off campus parties. He explained that although there are a few bad students who keep hosting parties, the majority of them are respecting their neighbors. He reiterated that the most effective way to curb off campus parties would be to have the landlord personally talk to their tenants about their behavior.

   - Ms. Shirley Mustard suggested that the location for the Town and Gown meetings should alternate between Eastern and the Town of Windham. Also, Ms. Mustard stated that she will be
introducing Eastern students to her Victorian home with hopes of hosting an internship to students who are interested in the subject.

- Mr. Bedini cautioned the residents of Willimantic that with the arrival of October and with Halloween only a few weeks away, a resurgence of off campus parties may occur. However, Mr. Bedini stated that after having a productive meeting with all the off campus students arrested this semester, many now realize their actions and the consequences of hosting parties in the future.

- Mr. Dick Grillo suggested that classes should be rearranged to have exams on Friday mornings to prevent students from having off campus parties Thursday night. Mr. Bedini explained that although Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of the University, has talked to professors about this topic, she cannot directly influence their lesson plans.

- Mr. Marc Scrivener, Acting Fire Chief of Willimantic, reiterated that off campus parties pose a threat not only because of the disturbances they cause, but also because alcohol is the leading cause of off campus fires for students. Additionally, Mr. Scrivener was satisfied with the current number of fire department responses to Eastern’s campus and credits Mr. Eric Germain for significantly decreasing the amount of unnecessary visits.

2. “R U One” Campaign Update:
   Presenter: Judy Frankel, Student Government Association

- Judy Frankel, Senator for Eastern’s Student Government Association, reviewed the progress the “R U One” campaign experienced from its creation last year. Ms. Frankel stated that they are brainstorming new ideas and ways to reach our students regarding this important topic. SGA is currently considering having bracelets made as a public relations tool and offering students to sign a pledge to be good neighbors within their community.

3. Update on the Partnership for Success Grant:
   Presenters: Geralyn Laut, University Assistant, &
   Aliza Makuch, Coordinator of the Wellness Promotion Office

- Ms. Aliza Makuch, Coordinator of the Wellness Promotion Office, stated that the Partnership for Success Grant offers $300,000 to the University and the Town of Windham over a four year period that will require the completion of a needs assessment and strategic plan. The coalition will host a meeting with all eleven members at the end of the month.

- Ms. Geralyn Laut, University Assistant, stated that she will be investigating the selling of alcohol to minors within the community and will be happy to receive information from community members with regard to this topic. Additionally, Ms. Laut stated that she will be researching how consequences of drinking on or off campus affect decisions made by Eastern students.

*Next Town and Gown Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2010 in the Johnson Room*