YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
March 16, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
A regular meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, March 16, 2025, at the East Granby Town Hall. Bonnie Jones called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members also present were Evan Hanks, Sara Kleinman, and Art Reardon. Swastika Gupta was absent. Alicia Van Neil (Program Coordinator) was also present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
None.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
A Van Neil received a letter from Project Grad thanking the Commission for the donation.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES**
A Reardon made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting. E Hanks seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A/B. Programming/Prevention-
A Van Neil reported that the Girls Circle session with the new facilitator, Alisa, went well. Boys Council did not run due to low enrollment. There will be a middle school check-in tomorrow during lunch waves. Visiting health classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will continue next week. The Commission sponsored popcorn, DJ, and photobooth for the school dance last week. About 150 students attended. The Commission will also support the Middle School Community Field Day again in May. A Van Neil is looking to schedule Boys and Girls Council groups during lunch waves next year. The overall scope of Youth Services and where it best fits in the schools and community is being reviewed. A Van Neil met with Mike Pasqua, Seymour School Health Teacher, to look at 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade prevention and where Youth Services could support. Most of the topics are already covered but A Van Neil will continue to look at where Youth Services could support him. Another possible program to bring into Seymour School would be a Pre-YAC program to prepare them for YAC at the Middle School.

C. High School and Middle School Updates- E Hanks met with Mr. DeMelo, principal at the High School. The Needs Assessment will be done during Friday's advisory. The new Portrait of a Grad video is being worked on by YAC members.

D. YAC Update- E Hanks reported for HS YAC. The Clifton Strengths Assessment was done, and the group will be meeting with the facilitator on Saturday to review the results. A Van Neil mentioned they may not meet on Saturday because several members let her know they cannot attend. They will be hosting a movie night in the EG Farms rec building on March 28th. Members are helping with the Parks and Rec

Easter activities. One member will be leading an activity for a townwide clean-up in April. A Van Neil reported for the MS group. Angela Uttberg has been the new facilitator since December, so A Van Neil can take a step back now. Angela is doing a great job and works well with Mason. Angela is doing the MS mid-year check-ins to get to know them. The group is helping with the Easter activities and Ambulance Association pancake breakfast. They will be hosting an Earth Day craft celebration. The Great Skate event happened in Feb and they had a great turn-out for it. They will be having an end-of-year activity at Winding Trails doing a raft-building team exercise. The group will host presenters to learn about their community. The first visitor will be Ms. Palmieri, the new superintendent. A Van Neil also mentioned the re-application process is getting underway. The Middle School will have the same timeline as last year. They will be hosting a Try-It night for 5th grade and new Middle School members at their meeting on 5/6. The High School group needs consideration as to what it will look like next year. Students are not fulfilling their commitments and are cancelling attendance with little notice. They are also not responding to emails and TeamSnap communication. One suggestion made is to bring the parents into the reapplication process to gain more home support with their students' commitments. Another suggestion is to create different tracks for High School members to choose from, such as a Mentorship track. Another suggestion is to give students the option to commit to one semester instead of a full year.

E. JRB Update- B Jones mentioned the group will be meeting next week. The reporting for the state is changing. There are no new cases currently.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Member Recruitment – There is no update for a new member to fill the vacancy or for a new law enforcement member to replace Scott Menard.

B. Needs Assessment – The Middle School took the assessment a little over a week ago and the High School will be taking it on Friday.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by E Hanks and seconded by S Kleinman to adjourn the meeting at 7:18pm. Votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk