

## **Topic Group Education and Youth Opportunities**

Members: Coordinator April Rives, Celeste Clark, Sandy Ellis, Tricia Wentworth, Colleen West-Coates and Christina Vogel.

The group was asked to look at two topics that were brought up at the first Master Plan work shop: 1.) Improve school education system (e.g., preparation for college); 2.) More youth programs; expand opportunities for youth. Both of these topics were discussed at length among the group members and some school officials.

### ***Improve School Education System***

We talked with High School Guidance Counselor Brian Lister and High School Principal Kirk Beitler. The group discussed having a job fair at the high school once a year for graduating seniors who do not plan on going off to college. At one time there was a program at the school for students to job shadow business people within the community; it was discussed that this be put into place again.

A concerned parent had approached a member of the committee and asked that the web site be more user friendly and more information be put on there as to when PSAT's and SAT's were occurring so that parents could be informed. Or maybe even a list serve that sends out e-mails to parents of information as mentioned. Also provide information to the parents as to what their child is required to have in order to graduate, an outline of what colleges are looking for in students when they are applying to colleges, and an up-to-date calendar of activities students can be involved in. (Since these meetings the school website has become more user friendly)

Celeste Clark worked with the students involved with Coalition for Youth and asked them several questions the group had come up with. When the students were asked what they enjoyed most about their education the response was that SST (Seacoast School of Technology) program. They were also asked if there was anything they would like added to their curriculum. The students didn't feel anything need to be added. The students did have some ideas as to what they felt would help them more if offered: Internships/job shadowing; a course on how to fill out college applications before senior year; have a job fair and college fair at the school or somewhere else with information on both so that a student can make an informed decision as to what is the right choice for her/him.

### ***More youth programs; expand opportunities for youth***

This topic wasn't discussed as much as education. We discussed having more playgrounds throughout town, not just at the schools. It was felt that the Recreation Department does a great job with their programs they offer now. It was mentioned that the Town should have a Community Center so more programs could be offered to citizens of all ages. (We were told that another group would be bringing this up also).