

Gardiner Youth Meeting

Thursday, July 28th

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Discussion with area youth regarding issues they face.

Attendees: Anne Davis (Gardiner Public Library), Jackie Pare (Assistant Principal Gardiner Area High School), Bobbi Ogborn (Juvenile Probation Officer), Ingrid Stanchfield (Boys & Girls Club of Greater Gardiner), 15 area youth of the ages 12-19.

Dinner was served at 5:30.

The meeting opened with introductions and an overview of why we were meeting.

The meeting focused on the issues youth in our community face and possible solutions.

The issues youth brought up for discussion were:

- Nothing to do
- No place to go and hang out after school and nights
- Adults in the community don't care about them
- No place to swim
- No skate park
- No jobs
- No money to go do things such as bowling, movies, etc.

Solutions discussed to address these issues:

- Basketball courts in town
- Open mike nights
- Teen Club
- Jobs that pay
- Movie night
- Teen shelter-games, pool, music
- Open BGC Club evenings and weekends
- Teens and adult volunteers help staff Club to be open at night
- Respect of one another
- Open Communication between youth and adults
- Preparing and eating meals together
- Address substance abuse and mental health issues on site
- Transportation

The meeting closed around 7:00 PM. Youth present agreed to meet again on August 15th to continue brainstorming solutions and how to engage youth in becoming part of the solution.

We will have a community wide meeting of concerned adults and youth in early September.

