

Narragansett - URI Coalition
Steering Committee Minutes (as corrected)

February 4, 2009 Meeting

Coalition Attendees

Town Gov.: Jeff Ceasrine; Alisa Trainor Fleet
NPD: Joseph Little; Robert Storme
Neighborhoods: Gerry McCarthy; Bob Shields; Carol Stuart
URI: Leslie Williams; Katrina Dorsey; Dan Graney
URI Students: Kerri Koppenaal; Andy O'Brien
Real Estate: Joe Robenhymer
Business & Liquor: absent

Meeting called to order at 4:04pm by McCarthy, co-chair.

McCarthy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of our November 18, 2008 meeting; Little so moved. Motion seconded & minutes approved as written.

McCarthy announced we have a special, invited guest today, Nancy Devaney, a Narragansett resident who leads the Narragansett Youth Task Force on Substance Abuse. She will now conduct a focus group discussion.

Agenda item 1) Substance Abuse Discussion

Nancy Devaney: Our mandate is to study and evolve programs to curtail substance abuse, with emphasis on DWI behavior. Our group's geographic focus is Narragansett & South Kingstown, including URI. We have a \$150,000 grant from Drug Free Communities for a 2 year study. Mark Woods of URI will be assisting in the study. We are presently developing a needs assessment, to be finished this coming June.

Devaney said one of the key questions that needs to be answered is: why is drinking such a big factor in relationships among high school and college students? She began the open dialog with a question: why live here & what do you like (or dislike) about Narragansett? Most residents & some students volunteered comments, most of which reflected well known views & issues repeated for Devaney's benefit. She took note of all these views for integration into her study. (Note: this discussion was well covered by Sarah Traver in the *Narragansett Times*, February 6, 2009, copies of which will be available at the next meeting.)

Item 2) URI Office of Student Life

Williams announced that approvals had been obtained to update the Coalition web pages on URI's web site. A student has been found who can do that job. All information to be included on our web site (currently under development) should be forwarded to Williams.

Item 3) Narragansett Police

Little began by stating that citations for loud parties since Sept. 1, 2008 have been somewhat lower this year compared to the year before. However, there have been 17 arrests for violation of Narragansett's new social host law, which places direct responsibility on any party host over 21 who provides liquor to anyone younger. The Chief also mentioned that the Police are now arresting minors for alcohol consumption based on a recognized set of inebriation symptoms (previously, a minor had to have been observed with bottle/can in hand).

Storme provided the police statistics summarized in the table below. In that tabulation, it should be noted that the right-hand column gives stats for the entire year through the end of May, not just YTD as in column 2.

Stuart said it would be helpful to have a breakdown by neighborhood. Little said the police will do this in the future.

Item 4) Establishing A Subcommittee to Set Goals

Narragansett - URI Coalition
Steering Committee Minutes (as corrected)

February 4, 2009 Meeting

McCarthy urged that a subcommittee be formed to establish a set of goals to guide the Coalition for the next year. It would initially solicit ideas from all representatives of the Coalition, work through the Spring & Summer to draft a set of guidelines, and report back to the Steering Committee this coming September. It was suggested the subcommittee include 1 representative from each stakeholder group. Stuart said the subcommittee should not just set goals, but also recommend specific actions to achieve these goals as part of its study.

Announcements

O'Brien said that the Student Senate hoped to host a concert on campus this Spring as part of a plan to enhance campus social life.

Williams announced that April 25, 2009 has been fixed as Spring Cleanup Day in the neighborhoods.

Next meetings:

March: 4 pm, Narragansett Town Hall.

April: 7 pm, URI Campus.

May: 4 pm, Narragansett Town Hall.

Dates: TBA

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

For the record, no motions were formally proposed at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Shields, Secretary

Statistics on loud party complaints & alcohol related arrests handled by NPD

Reported by Officer Storme:
(as corrected at March 24, 2009 meeting)

	2008-9 <u>Sep.-Jan. (5</u> mo.)	2007-8 <u>Sep.-May (9</u> mo.)
Total noise complaints	339	464
Loud party arrests, URI students	102	195
Citations issued, stickers posted	31	78
DWI	26	77
RI social host arrests	0	0
Narragansett social host arrests	17	0
Illegal possession of alcohol	22	84
Illegal transportation of alcohol	46	0
Fake IDs received from vendors	62	111
Fake ID arrests	5	10
Possession of unregistered beer kegs	1	4