

## North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 / 6:00 pm

**Location:** North Reading Town Hall

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Frank Ferraro	Rich Wallner – Select Board Liaison
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair	Jodi Sponzo	Seani Thomas – Youth Services Committee member Candidate
Beatriz Vautin, Secretary	Alexis Arsenis	Amy Salomon - Youth Services Committee member Candidate
Amy DiChiara		

- 1. Call to Order.** Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- 2. Review of Minutes.** August 28, 2023 minutes were reviewed and accepted. Amy motioned and Jason seconded the motion.
- 3. Meet prospective committee members: Christina Gandolfo, Amy Salomon, Seani Thomas**

Seani Thomas and Amy Salomon were present to learn more about the Youth Services Committee (YSC) to determine if they are interested in becoming members. At the end of the meeting both said that they were interested in joining the YSC. During the discussion a Committee member asked about whether attendance was an important criterion for deciding if a person is asked to join the Committee, and the response was yes that the YSC needs and wants members who will be able to attend meetings and has declined membership to people who have said they would not be able to attend regularly.
- 4. Public Service Director's Report.** Eleanor Richard is the new Youth Services (YS) Director who will be starting October 2, and located at the library. The question was asked who is going to onboard Eleanor into the new position given that Lillian hasn't had a YS Director filled for much of her tenure and YS is a Department of one. Eleanor has already met with the Library and Parks and Recreation Staff. Eleanor can be reached at [ERichard@northreadingma.gov](mailto:ERichard@northreadingma.gov) or [youthservices@northreadingma.gov](mailto:youthservices@northreadingma.gov). The North Reading High School Adjustment Counselor and Librarian are very interested in being in touch with Eleanor starting her first week.


4. **(cont.)** Lil's report is attached (Exhibit I) and handed out during the meeting highlights activities that the Community Impact Team (CIT) is hosting for families in the month of October. Intergenerational Center planning has slowed. One question that the facilities Master Plan Committee has asked if there is anyone who is interested in participating in a Committee to be involved in building the Center. Peter and Seani said they are enthusiastic about it and would participate.
5. **Miscellaneous Business.** Jason and Jen Ford are leading Guiding Good Choices throughout the month of October. There was a discussion about advertising for the course and how it was included in the Community Bulletin Board emails coming to parents from the schools. One member commented about how these emails are just a bunch of links for parents to click on for more information with no explanation about what Guiding Choices is to make someone want to click on it. The new Hood School PA weekly and monthly snapshots were shown as a social media example YS may want to replicate on Facebook and Instagram.
6. **Set date for next meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for October 23 at the library. This will be Eleanor's first meeting. Detective Paul Lucci will also be in attendance as a guest speaker.
- Chair Majane adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: October 23, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Documents and Handouts	
August 28, 2023 minutes	
YSC Update from Public Services Director September 2023	

October 23, 2023  
Minutes Approved

  
Chair Peter Majane

## EXHIBIT I

### YSC Update from Public Services Director 9/18/23

#### Department Operations

Youth Services Director expected to start Monday, October 2. In first week, an introductory email will go out to Committee, partners, and participants from last year. Fall YS programming will start in November.

Office space: Flint Memorial Library has office space ready, and as of 8/15/23 the Young Adult section of books has moved to the back corner of the 1st floor instead of next to the circulation desk and front door. This allows for added teen privacy and noise.

#### Visibility and Partnerships

Youth Services wristbands and kindness-themed temporary tattoos were given out at Town Day 9/17 at a table staffed by the Commission on Disabilities.

The Flint Memorial Library hired Emily Klesaris as Program Coordinator 9/13, and Senior Center hired Jackie Quinn as part-time Program/Volunteer Coordinator 9/11. This cohort may orient together, building connections between departments.

CIT Social Services Action Team will meet 9/19 to update a list of financial assistance resources for North Reading families, shared within the local provider network and once finalized, to be published online and in a printed North Reading Resource Guide.

CIT substance use prevention funding is available for Youth Services to re-convene a Youth Action Team.

YSC meeting invitations this month:

- Middle School Back to School Night – Tuesday Sept 19 at HS/MS @ 6:30pm
- High School Back to School Night – Thursday Sept 21 at HS/MS
- Coalition for Substance Use Prevention (and Recovery) 9/25. Please email Lil if you're interested.
- K-12 Community Impact Action Team - Wednesday, Sept 27, 6-7pm in the MS/HS distance learning lab. Goal: Schools trying to engage family and community members in positive community-building. Meets 4x per year to define goals for subgroup work. Last year there were DEIB, bullying prevention and intervention, health and wellness subgroups.
- Mental Wellness 9/28. Please email Lil if you're interested and to receive the zoom invitation.
- Council on Aging 9/19 at 5:30pm (virtual)
- Library Board of Trustees anticipated Wednesday 9/27 at 7pm
- Veterans Events' committee meets only rarely to prepare for events, will meet sometime before Nov. 11 ceremonies
- Recreation Committee meets regularly and next meeting is set for Monday, October 16 at 6:45pm

## EXHIBIT I

The last 4 on the list are public bodies who post agendas on the town website. We've improved the site recently so you can subscribe to receive notices when they are posted at [www.northreadingma.gov/subscribe](http://www.northreadingma.gov/subscribe)

### Serving Youth Together

Intergenerational Center staff wish lists went to the Facilities Master Plan workgroup on 5/8 after all associated committees reviewed them. This is a resident-led committee with staff taking a backseat role. Anyone interested in championing this facility, please let Lil or Abby Hurlbut know.

Updates to the IRP Skate Park are set to begin the week of Sept. 18, due to be completed in October. Bids on a project to resurface the street hockey rink, tennis courts and one basketball court at IRP are due 9/28. Hockey rink boards and resurfacing due for completion in Nov 2023. An Eagle Scout project is being planned to replace the IRP lifejacket stand.

Recreation is offering archery (age 9-17), babysitting course in October (age 10-15), cross-country (age 9-14), USCA tennis (age 11-14). Pumpkin Festival event is set for volunteers' incl. youth, but may need additional teen pumpkin painters/crafters.

Teen volunteers needed for a Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Library has recruited 7 teens to serve on a Teen Advisory Board (TAB). They continue to offer D & D, Retro Video Game Club.

CIT has the following youth-orientated workshops scheduled for this month (at NRPD unless otherwise noted). Register at <https://www.northreadingma.gov/community-impact-team/pages/events>:

- Mental Health First Aid for Adults Working with Youth: 9/26 and 9/28, 5-9:30p
- Guiding Good Choices 4 week-series: 10/4 thru 25, 6-9p at Library
- Taking the Scary Out of Social Media and Stealth Functions: 10/13, 12p
- Strong Families, Resilient Kids: 10/16, 6p
- Vaping 101: 10/17, 6p
- Pot 2.0 and Refusal Skills: 10/17, 7:30p
- How to Teach Your Kids Refusal Skills: 10/20, 12:30p
- Social Media 101 & Setting Parental Controls: 10/26, 6:30p