

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, April 23, 2018 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Amy DiChiara	Judy Hall	Jason Slattery
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz	Christy Damphousse	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Samantha Miller		Amy Luckiewicz, N.R. Human Services/Youth Development
Kathy Dardeno	Sandy Garniss		
Patty Harrington			

Vice-Chairman Frank Ferraro called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

- Welcome New Youth Services Director, Jennifer Ford:** Jennifer Ford introduced herself and gave background. She stated she has extensive experience with at-risk youth and expressed her objectives in new position. She has been visiting all the schools and principals to gain recognition in new position and is working on introducing an anti-bullying campaign. She expressed her desire to survey all youth to see what interests them and how better to serve them through youth services. She outlined her concern that school-based anxiety and depression is on the rise and discussed a possible alternative, "Connections Academy", which is an online, virtual learning education. Her goal is to somehow incorporate it into the North Reading school system. Questions were raised as to who would benefit from this program and it was outlined that kids with mental health issues would benefit the most from the program. There were questions of cost, timeframe, and possible pushback from community. Jen outlined her desire to create partnerships for virtual classrooms through local colleges, the Flint Memorial Library and the Superintendent. She also outlined her desire to increase the NRYS budget through fundraising efforts such a NRYS Yard Sale and possibly a NRYS store, where anyone could donate items or purchase items. It was outlined that fundraising might only be possible through a 501(c)(3), "Friends of..."-type group. Jen concluded with distribution of her short and long-term goals packet.
- Review of Previous Minutes:** March 26, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report:** It was outlined that finances remain steady and it was noted that the new Youth Services Director's hiring costs came out of the Youth Services Department budget as the town's Human Resources Department doesn't have a budget for that type of expense.
- Social Services Report:** It was noted March was steady and there were 2 new kids for the Middle School Youth Group. Amy Luckiewicz was on vacation for two weeks in April so there were no services during that time. She noted for the future that high school programs are best held at 7 p.m.
- Old Business:** Amy Luckiewicz announced her graduation from Northeastern University with a Master of Science, Human Services.
- New Business:** Amy Luckiewicz announced that implementation of a mental health clinician for the town is in the works, to be voted on soon.

Next meeting: Monday, May 21, 2018 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from March Meeting
Financial Report	Jennifer Ford, NRYS Director/Job Objectives Summary Page
Jennifer Ford, NRYS Director/Job Objectives Summary Packet	

May 21, 2018
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair