

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, April 26, 2021/ 6:00 pm **Location:** Zoom - Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Amy DiChiara	Patty Harrington	Jennifer Ford, YS Director
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary	Jodi Sponzo	Christy Damphousse	
Frank Ferraro	Leslie Schultz	Danielle Masterson, Co-Chair	
Jason Slattery		Yan Huang	

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1. Review of March Minutes. March 22, 2021 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: YS Director Jennifer Ford stated that there has been no change in finances since last month. A few small purchases were made this past month and she will submit receipts for reimbursement.

3. Participation Report: YS Director Jen Ford stated that participation has continued to be steady but low. No new programs were started in April but the winter groups were continued and held outside when feasible. The Youth Action Team is going strong with a small group of youth. In March they compiled an article with quotes from town and school female employees in *The Transcript*. The article was a good opportunity to get to know our female leaders better and give a shout out to them. The Youth Action Team activities for April focused on poetry with people of color authors and for May the focus will be on mental health. The team plans to send an anonymous, voluntary survey to MS and HS students with questions about mental health. They will then partner with Laura Miranda, NR Clinician, to create a response to the results. Language Lessons with HS Int'l Club are continuing and still have good attendance. 5th grade girls group organized a donation for the Community Giving Tree collecting bath essentials. The High School activism club won the social activism PSA contest in Massachusetts.

YS Director Jen Ford hosted some activities over April break when the weather was nice. She utilized volunteers to help make posters for the Day of Silence which was held at Ipswich River Park. She is Chair of the Coalition and also a member of the steering committee. Two days in May she will participate in "sticker shock" where stickers are placed on alcohol that youth would be driven to purchase. The stickers inform adults what would happen if they purchase alcohol for underage youth. YS Director Jen Ford is a member of the Boston Post Cane committee. This committee gives a cane to the oldest community member in town who has lived here 25 or more years. The North Reading cane disappeared so two new ones are being made. One will be placed on display at Flint Memorial Library and one used for photo ops when the recipient is given a certificate and pin. Chair Peter Majane inquired about YS Director Jen Ford's involvement with Interact and Early Act. She may start the YS interact group in the summer and the HS group has not been very active in the past.

4. Social Services Report: The committee had a discussion about the North Reading community as a whole regarding racism and acceptance of all. Currently the NR Police are investigating a hate crime where a house was vandalized with hate messages. Until we start speaking out on behalf of marginalized groups there will not be change. As a committee there is not much we can do at this time but individually we and those we know can all commit to making a change. Be an ally, step up and hold

others accountable. We deserve to live in a community that is tolerant and committed to creating a safe environment for all.

5. Old Business: No old business.

6. New Business: No new business.

Next meeting: May 24, 2021 **Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.**

Documents/Handouts	
March 2021 Minutes	

May 24, 2021

Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair