

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, December 16, 2019 - 6pm

Location: North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Amy DiChiara	Christy Damphousse	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Danielle Masterson	Jason Slattery	Debra Mahoney
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Patty Harrington		
Leslie Shultz			
Samantha Miller			

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

1. **Review of Previous Minutes:** October 28, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. **Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford reported no changes from last report. She stated personal reimbursement is needed and she will submit. Jennifer noted the budget is not due until January 3, 2020.
3. **Social Services Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined there are many mental health struggles currently. Given the time of year it's to be expected. The change of seasons (fall into winter) and the holidays can be a depressing time of year for many.
4. **Participation Report:** Participation numbers looking strong. Still looking for more high school volunteers. FY20 is up 103% from FY18 and 75% from FY19. The 5th Grade Girls Group will continue throughout the summer into the new school year. All members were thrilled.
5. **Old Business:** *MTG w/Town Administrator:* YS Director Jennifer Ford discussed a recent meeting with Town Administrator Mike Gilleberto regarding a desired volunteer program for Youth Services which reached beyond the Youth Services Committee. Mr. Gilleberto felt the committee was large enough to serve as the pool. It was noted that a lot of the committee members work full-time and would not be available during the day when the help is needed. Jen extended the invitation to all YS Committee Members to let her know if they are available for volunteer opportunities. *Social Services Action Team's Project 500:* Jen updated all on the Social Services Action Team's Project 500 which is aimed at creating intergenerational programming. Its goal is to reach 500 households with members over 65 who are living alone. It was noted that currently in North Reading there are over 500 people who are over the age of 75 and living alone. The young and the old are at greatest risk of developing depression, especially coming off the holidays. There is an event planned for January 29, 2020 co-hosted by the SSAT and Youth Services. Jennifer Ford stated that she scheduled the HS a cappella group "NOTEorious" to perform and other youth to reach out to the elderly. It was suggested that perhaps students could write notes back and forth to the town's elderly (pen pals) to give them something to look forward to and lift their spirits. *2020 HS Reality Fair:* The date for the 2020 Reality Fair is set for March 19, 2020. There was talk of getting a Reality Fair sub-committee together for preparations and improvements. *Elementary Early Act:* It was noted that the EA Club made snowmen ornaments with notes which were delivered to seniors in town. Jen stated she's lost a solid contact at Peabody Court because the regular contact had left. Jen outlined to the EA kids that the ornament project and other projects like this are not just "arts and crafts" projects, but they can be life-altering for some seniors. Chair Peter Majane invited all to join him and the Rotary Club at Peabody Court on December 18, 2020 as they deliver lunch to seniors there. *Jennifer Ford Review:* Chair Peter Majane and Vice-Chair Frank Ferraro expressed how their meeting with Town Administrator Mike Gilleberto regarding YS Director Jennifer Ford's annual performance review went well. Mr. Gilleberto was impressed with all the programming. Peter and Frank expressed the YS Committee's opinion that a YS Assistant is desperately needed because there isn't enough time in

day, week, or year, for Jen to execute all the programming she'd like to. It was also expressed how the town has been lucky that Jen hasn't had a major illness or needed extended time off because programming would have shut down. It did happen once in the past and the town lost 3 months of programming. Jen expressed her concern that without free time there isn't time to focus on future programming...only present. An assistant would allow her time for creativity. Mr. Gilleberto responded positively to the expression of the need and a proposal will be included in the new budget for 2020.

6. **New Business:** *New Member:* Debra Mahoney was introduced to the committee as a potential new member. Deb's application to serve on the Youth Services Committee has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review. Deb expressed her desire to do more in the community. She has a 6th and 9th grader in the North Reading school system and feels she can offer insight. *Nominations:* A motion to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for the YS Committee for 2020 was made. Peter Majane was re-elected as Chair, Danielle Masterson was elected as Co-Chair, and Karen Buscemi was re-elected as Secretary.

Next meeting: Mon. January 27, 2019 - 6 p.m., NR Town Hall, Rm. 10 / Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from October Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report

1/27/2020
Minutes Approved on Date

Danielle Masterson
Peter Majane, Committee Chair