

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, February 28, 2022 / 6:00 pm **Location:** Zoom -Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Frank Ferraro	Leslie Schultz	Kathleen Logan, potential member
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair	Amy DiChiara		Jennifer Ford, Director of Youth Services
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary	Beatriz Vautin		
Jacob Mullin-Bernstein	Yan Huang		
Jodi Sponzo			

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Chair Peter Majane introduced potential member Kathleen Logan. She shared her background and expressed her interest in the committee and then committee members asked a few questions.

1. Review of Minutes: January 24, 2022 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: YS Director Jen Ford reported no change in finances. She does not anticipate any change in the near future.

3. Participation Report: Next month the North Reading Youth Action Team (YAT) will join the YAT meeting in Wakefield. The Wakefield group is very youth driven and active so hopefully our group will benefit from the interaction. Some of the YAT positions in Wakefield are paid and YS Director Jen Ford will explore this as a possibility for our group next year which could help to increase participation and commitment. Guiding Good Choices sessions will be starting in March and is already being advertised. YS Director Jen Ford and committee member Jason Slattery will be co-facilitators. To garner more interest the program has been condensed to four sessions and those interested can attend only the sessions they want to focus on and there will be a raffle drawing each session. Two participants are already registered.

YS Director Jen Ford has not promoted YS programs actively because there has not been space to meet. In mid-March this will change and groups will have more access to indoor space and weather should be nicer so meetings could also be outside. In the next few weeks the programs will be promoted. The committee then had a conversation about the functionality and success of meeting formats (in-person, Zoom and hybrid). YS Director Jen Ford's desire is to move to in-person programs as much as possible.

4. Social Services Report: YS Director Jen Ford has had a lot of conversations with youth struggling with anxiety and the stress around making decisions and choices for their future (i.e. college).

5. Old Business: No old business.

6. New Business: YS Director Jen Ford shared with the committee how members could assist. The areas she sees that the YS department could be working on where committee members could get involved are grant writing, social media, new ideas for programming, the ability to fill in for a current program, and pod casting. There was a discussion about members being CORI'd to participate in the programs with youth. If anyone is interested in assisting with the department they should contact YS Director Jen Ford directly. She will request a part-time assistant again this year at the budget hearings.

Chair Peter Majane thanked the members for their time and commitment.


Next meeting: March 28, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
January 2022 Minutes	

March 28, 2022

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair