

# North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Monday, February 26, 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	Amy Luckiewicz, Y.S. Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz	Patty Harrington	
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Samantha Miller		
Christy Damphousse	Sandy Garniss		
Kathy Dardeno			

**Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.**

1. **Review of Previous Minutes:** January 22, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. **Financial Report:** Amy Luckiewicz reported that her cell phone costs are still under the DFC grant, not the Youth Services budget. She outlined that field trips are great for the groups, but reliable transportation is key to enrollment for safer travel as renting a van is \$140 a day and the current van is unreliable. She reminded the group to attend the March 19<sup>th</sup> budget hearing.
3. **Participation Report:** Amy Luckiewicz noted participation was up.
4. **Social Services Report:** Amy Luckiewicz said their focus has been socialization and noted a Diverse Learners Group would be a great future addition.
5. **CIT Update:** Amy Luckiewicz outlined she and Officer Paul Lucci traveled to Washington, DC to speak with Congressman Seth Moulton regarding funding for mental health. Coincidentally there was a school threat that same day. She noted she would have loved to have shared data. Vaping continues to be their main focus. CIT is offering 4 presentations regarding vaping and all are sold out. Reports in other towns outline kids are visibly shaking from nicotine withdrawal and it could happen here too. There are currently no treatment centers for nicotine withdrawal. She outlined that vaping and cigarette data is now becoming separated as it was combined before. It was noted that the cost of vaping does not appear to be a deterrent for kids in North Reading. She is asking the school committee for permission to distribute a vaping survey.
6. **Hiring Process:** Getting information has not been easy regarding hiring a new Youth Services Director. The town has been very busy and things have not been moving forward as quickly as expected. A survey was distributed to the new hire committee and the town added a new question. The town is limiting the Youth Services Committee to 4 members to give input in the hiring decision. The Youth Services Committee was asked to contribute some questions for job applicants. It was expressed that there hasn't been a strong high school youth group in a while. It was outlined most of the members have been in middle school. There was concern that there haven't been enough calls coming in to Youth Services as well. It was suggested that the next Youth Services Director become a member of CIT, but not heavily involved. Concern was expressed over low participation, especially at the high school level. It was expressed that perhaps more kids are joining the clubs offered at school and that there has been more acceptance of gay, lesbian, and bi students which might be decreasing the need for support in that area. It was expressed that perhaps kids have found another outlet. It was suggested that the committee try and reach out to join forces with a college that is willing to offer college credit to students wanting to gain social service experience as it would help both the Youth Services department and also give high schoolers college mentors. It was also suggested that the committee invite students of all grade levels to come in to discuss options to grow the group. The current top priority is the new hire interview and it was suggested that the committee review past resumes to see what might be common with potential new hire resumes. It was outlined that March 6, 2018 is the deadline for formatting the interview for a new Youth Services Director. Amy Luckiewicz stated there were 9 applicants for the job. The committee outlined that they only really liked 4 of the 9 and the town accepted this opinion. It was noted that in past years there have been over 60 applicants and the committee agreed that not enough advertising had been done. It was expressed that only one applicant was really strong and a true potential candidate. There was question as to who makes the final decision after the hiring committee sends their recommendation. Amy Luckiewicz noted that she had asked some kids in the Youth Group what they were looking for in a new Director and their #1 answer was "a sense of humor," someone "funny."
7. **Old Business:** The hiring process is the main concern right now and was discussed above. **Education Update:** Amy Luckiewicz's graduation date is March 31, 2018.

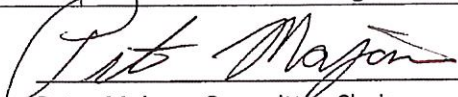
8. **New Business:** The recent school threat at North Reading High School was mentioned. It was asked what the town's responsibility was in situations like this and what the Youth Services Committee's input should be. It was discussed that in-school suspensions actually work best in some instances as there was concern over why the individual(s) in question were still in school. It was outlined that Youth Services is allowed to be somewhat involved but isn't allowed to attend suspension meetings with parents. There was concern expressed that this kid might have fallen through the cracks. There was discussion about what happens to kids after expulsion. There were many factors outlined, including age of the student, the parent's involvement and possible push to have the student continue their education and the possibility of DFC taking over.

**Next meeting:** Monday, March 26, 2018 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Participation Report	Financial Report
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from January Meeting
Youth Group Input Regarding New YS Director	CH Parent Alert: Juuling

March 26, 2018  
Minutes Approved on Date

  
Peter Majane, Committee Chair