

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, January 23, 2017 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Large Conference Room

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Judy Hall	Amy Luckiewicz, Youth Services Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Kathy Dardeno	Kate Manupelli, Board of Selectmen
Karen Buscemi		Colin McKinney, NRHS Junior
Leslie Schultz		Rita Mullin, CIT member
Samantha Miller		Christy Dampousse
Sandy Garniss		Amy DiChiara
Patti Harrington		

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

- Guest Speaker: Colin McKinney** - Amy Luckiewicz introduced North Reading High School Junior Colin McKinney. He spoke about his experience at the NRHS Reality Fair held in November of 2016. Colin noted it was well-received and was an eye-opener for many students. He said students are looking forward to it next year. It was suggested the event be streamlined for more efficient flow. Colin also commented on internal communications within the high school and how it could be improved. He noted community service hours are not regularly sent out to the student body and he would like to see that changed, rather than having to go to the guidance office for hours. Rita asked Colin about CIT presentations and how they are perceived by students. He said if guests are professional/knowledgeable and not just up there "talking" then they are appreciated, otherwise they are disregarded.
- Guest: Christy Dampousse** - Christy Dampousse was introduced to the Committee as potential candidate. She noted her years of service as a North Reading Girl Scout and Cub Scout Co-Leader and project manager for family business. She discussed her wish to increase her in the growth of the community's youth programs. She was introduced to Youth Services through the Youth Services mentoring and youth group.
- Minutes Review** - There was no December meeting. November 2016 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report** - The report was distributed and Amy stated there were no recent large payouts and Youth Services was doing fine in the financial department. The committee had no questions.
- Participation Report** - Amy distributed the participation report and noted December and January have been her busiest ever. There was more communication with the police due to a New Year's Eve party that involved 14 kids. Amy was asked to assist with police/parent/child meetings. She also said there's an increase of autistic children at the Middle School and a need for increased mentors to assist these kids. Amy stated how she loves her new office at the high school. She said the program received 21 new students from both the Middle and High School and she attributes it to her increased visual presence at both schools. There are 116 enrolled total since July. She noted 12 EarlyAct Club kids this year.
- CIT Update** - Rita opened the discussion with notes from several Board of Selectmen meetings she had attending which discussed the proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensary on Concord St. in North Reading. She mentioned a group (Cardiac Arrhythmia Syndromes Foundation) that came and spoke and presented arguments in favor of the dispensary. Rita expressed her concern that this group had not reached out to the Youth Services Committee to discuss. They did, upon request, chat with the CIT program. Rita noted that it appeared most Selectmen were on board with the plan, however Amy expressed her concern that this law is not ready and the police are not in favor of it and CIT did not vote on the issue despite Board stating they did. It was also noted that his group (C.A.S. Foundation) is linked to a "for profit" in Andover and this group will contract out and we may not be comfortable with the outsource. Amy said students will be attending the January 30th Selectmen Meeting and will be asking questions. There was a motion to vote on sending recommendation letter to the Board against Medical Marijuana Dispensary in North Reading and it was voted upon unanimously in favor.
- CIT Grant Update** - Amy expressed her disappointment in the federal government's support of this grant and her frustration with the process. She experienced a difficult situation while trying to register for an online webinar and

didn't have much success registering after she called either. She mentioned the STOP Grant which we have the opportunity to get, however she is not getting the support she needs from the government regarding it.

8. **Presentation Schedule** - Amy outlined programs/presentations coming to North Reading. John Morello will present his show "DIRT: A One Man Show of Substance Abuse and Choices" on February 13th. March 14th beginning at 3PM is "North Reading Night Off". No after-school activities should be planned and kids are encouraged to spend time with their families. On May 18th, Dr. Ruth Potee will speak about treating addiction as a disease and physical, mental and addiction illnesses and care techniques. Amy noted the projected date of "National Night Out" is August 1. And the high school will be having a simulated car crash presentation this year and it was discussed that next year a "mock trial" will come to the high school with real judges and lawyers.
9. **Prep for Mr. Loprete Visit** - High School Principal Mr. Anthony Loprete has been invited back to visit the Committee on February 27th to discuss how Youth Services can better serve the high school and increase communications. Amy outlined that her presence at the high school, thanks to her new office, has increased communications, however, given the complexity of high school students in general there is still a need for further discussion on both ends. The committee was asked to devise questions for Mr. Loprete for next meeting.
10. **Battle of the Bands** - This year's Battle of the Bands will celebrate its 10th Anniversary! No date has been set. Amy was looking for suggestions on how to celebrate and suggested an "unplugged" element which would include acapella groups and other acoustic-type musicians.
11. **Old Business - Education Update:** Amy outlined her continued education and maintained 4.0 grade point average. She shared a story of how she helped her online teacher with grant writing given her own personal experience with it. She will be incorporating her grant writing experience into her final project. **COLA:** Amy said her merit increase was received in December. Her COLA is still on hold pending the Non-Union Contract negotiations. She mentioned that Stoneham is hiring for her same position at a significantly higher rate. Kate Manupelli outlined her concern over the YS Committee discussing Amy's personnel concerns and did not clearly understand why it needed to be discussed. The Committee outlined why it's in their best interest to discuss as they are involved in the hiring of the position and performance review. If there's a chance she would leave for a higher salary it would be concerning. They also outlined responsibility of Amy's review, which directly correlates with merit raises and overall salary. It was also outlined that Amy's position was created with the formation of the YS Committee so it's a direct concern when salary is not being met.
12. **New Business** - Sandy Garniss introduced the "Middle School Teacher's Project" currently being developed by Amy and Sandy with full support from Middle School Principal Cathy O'Connell. This project is being developed with the intent of providing team building exercises for middle school teachers. There will be 12 stations provided by volunteers who will present different scenarios for team building. **STOP Grant:** The STOP (Stop underage drinking) Act Grant was briefly discussed and it was outlined we are eligible for it as it is open to all DFC grant holders. Amy expressed her concern over the grant process but would be happy to pursue.
13. **Vote on New Applicants/Amy DiChiara and Christy Dampousse:** Amy DiChiara spoke briefly before the vote outlining her complete separation between being a Town Employee and being a Youth Services Committee Member. She stated she is at the committee meetings strictly as a parent. It was suggested she file a conflict of interest form with the town. Vote was unanimous in favor of adding Amy DiChiara to the committee. It was outlined that it is not customary for a vote on new members take place the first night of meeting them. The usual process was outlined and it was mentioned the process serves both the applicant and the committee so both can take the time to think about their commitment. Christy was introduced this evening and a motion to vote immediately was presented. Motion was granted and vote was unanimous in favor of appointing Christy to the committee.

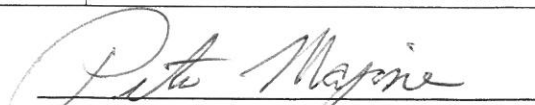
Next meeting: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Participation Report	N.R. Substance Use Resource Guide

February 27, 2017

Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair