

## North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Monday, January 24, 2022 / 6:00 pm      **Location:** Zoom -Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Leslie Schultz	Frank Ferraro	Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair	Amy DiChiara		Jennifer Ford, Director of Youth Services
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary	Beatriz Vautin		Rebecca Griffin, potential member
Jacob Mullin-Bernstein	Yan Huang		Selectwoman Liane Gonzalez
Jodi Sponzo			

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

Chair Peter Majane introduced North Reading Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto. Mr. Gilleberto updated us on the town budget process for 2023. He will review budgets from each department and will make final recommendations for the June Town Meeting. Mr. Gilleberto updated us on some senior staffing gaps, the status of the hiring process and a restructuring to create another director position. Like everywhere else, the town is impacted with COVID related workforce issues and challenges. Some examples are trash collection, summer programming, and part time and seasonal employees. A question was asked about meetings taking place in person. Mr. Gilleberto informed us that there is currently no prohibition against in person meetings and the virtual meeting mandate is scheduled to expire April 1. Social distancing requirements are still in effect so meetings can only take place in the gym and room 14 which limits availability. Non-town groups are still not allowed to use town space. Mr. Gilleberto thanked committee members for their commitment and willingness to volunteer to help the town government move forward.

**1. Review of Minutes:** December 20, 2021 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:** Programming that was in place is still offered and possibly new programs will be offered in March when the weather is getting nicer. Youth are not interested in meeting virtually at this point so it is difficult to start new programs. YS Director Jen Ford met with the YAT (Youth Action Team) Wakefield advisor. Wakefield has a larger and more active group. Our group's visions align with what is being done in Wakefield and YS Director Jen Ford is looking to implement more in NR. Guiding Good Choices was completed in October 2021 and the hope is to offer it again in March or April. The presenters are exploring breaking the curriculum down into individual classes so caregivers would not have to come to all sessions if they were not available, or having a few mandatory classes, and/or having an introductory class to spark interest in the program. The presenters have been tweaking the curriculum to provide material that resonates with all caretakers. YS Director Jen Ford stated that they are looking for a creative and enticing way to advertise the program. Member Beatriz Vautin suggested using quotes from medical professionals to help advertise this program. Chair Peter Majane asked about collaboration with other departments and was informed that there is one session where the police and CIT present and show products that are currently available in our community and being used by teens. YS Director Jen Ford and Member Jacob Mullin-Bernstein discussed the Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership, where Jacob Mullin-Bernstein received training. It is a program training those working with youth to encourage groups to enjoy and explore the great outdoors. They have campsites

and lodges all over New England and they offer their sites and gear to trained members at discounted rates. Hopefully Youth Services will be able to take advantage of Jacob Mullin-Berstein's skills and enthusiasm and plan some trips/activities for this spring/summer.

**4. Social Services Report:** There has been a slight shift from last month's conversations about college to now a lot of conversations about depression, feeling isolated, and burnt out. People who have never dealt with anxiety are now dealing with it.

**5. Old Business:** No old business.

**6. New Business:** How can we build a better structure within the YS committee? YS Director Jen Ford has thoughts about how we can assist her and move forward and we will discuss this further next month. Committee members reassured YS Director Jen Ford that we are available to help her when needed. The 2021 Youth Services narrative was shared with members. YS has not yet been given a budget date yet. Once a date is announced YS Director Jen Ford will let the committee know so we can attend and support her. Members had a thorough discussion about holding meetings in person with many options discussed. Chair Peter Majane will look into some possibilities and get back to members. Chair Peter Majane thanked all of us for our continued work on the committee.

**Next meeting:** February 28, 2022

**Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**

Documents/Handouts	
December 2021 Minutes	2021 Youth Services Narrative

February 28, 2022  
Minutes Approved on Date

  
Peter Majane, Committee Chair