

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, July 26, 2021 / 6:00 pm **Location:** Zoom -Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Yan Huang	Jason Slattery	Jennifer Ford, YS Director
Danielle Masterson, Co-Chair	Frank Ferraro	Christy Damphousse	
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary	Amy DiChiara	Leslie Schultz	
Frank Ferraro	Patty Harrington		
Jodi Sponzo			

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

1. Review of May Minutes. May 24, 2021 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: Jen Ford, YS Director stated that she reimbursed herself for expenses from the FREEFORM group day camping at Harold Parker. There was no other financial activity.

3. Participation Report: Participation numbers are low over the summer. Jen Ford, YS Director has been in contact with families and since many are still working remotely they are at summer houses or taking lengthy vacations. Groups that do continue to meet are FREEFORM and Youth Action Team (YAT).

4. Social Services Report: Jen Ford, YS Director has been having conversations with community members regarding mental health issues similar to the past few months. Other specific conversations include: youth coming out about their identity or sexuality to Jen Ford, YS Director and the discouraging fact that these youth are not comfortable having these conversations at home with their guardian(s). The NRHS Valedictorian used her speech at graduation to share her personal journey with mental health and suicide to spread awareness about the serious issues of these topics. The speech was also printed in *The Transcript*. *The Transcript* will be publishing an article about Project Peace.

5. Old Business: June's Pride Ride was a success with over 100 cars participating and many onlookers supporting the ride from the streets. Jen Ford, YS Director attended the Flint Memorial summer reading kick off. Youth Services hosted an "Out of the Darkness" walk showing support for suicide prevention and awareness. 5th Grade Girls Group collected and donated bath essentials to the Community Giving Tree nonprofit organization. Jen Ford, YS Director attended CADCA Mid-year Training Institute.

6. New Business: Jen Ford, YS Director is looking to create a Youth Services Academy. The first event will be a three part series for high school students to include partnering with an HR consultant to work on resumes, mock interviews, and First Aid/CPR certification. Currently there is no space to offer this program and committee members offered suggestions. Jen Ford, YS Director would like to create a Caregivers club, a forum for those caregivers who are struggling and doing it in silence. The committee brainstormed ways to reach this population and conversations will continue. Statistically it is proven that if you take care of "mom" many risk factors are decreased. DFC's virtual site visit with the Coalition is scheduled. The Coalition is at the end of 5th year and is hoping to get another grant for the next 5 years. Losing the grant will have an impact on the community. North Reading was accepted as an age friendly community. A grant paid for an assessment which provided an objective point of view and expertise. Voids we need to fill with this initiative were identified. Youth Services will have a social media "intern" assisting Jen Ford, YS Director in sharing more stories and information about all the work being done in town. The Select Board did not recommend an assistant for Youth Services at June Town

Meeting. Danielle Masterson, Vice Chair submitted her resignation to Youth Services. She accepted a new job at the Wilmington Library and will no longer be available. Committee members voiced their thanks to Danielle for her work on the committee and at the library.

Next meeting: August 23, 2021 **Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.**

Documents/Handouts	
May 2021 Minutes	

September 27, 2021

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair