

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

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

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

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes: February 28, 2022 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: YS Director Jen Ford reported no change in finances. She anticipates increased programming this spring which will include some spending.

3. Social Services Report: YS Director Jen Ford continues to have a lot of conversations about community service to include working with some youth on their civic action project which is a HS requirement. YS Director Jen Ford is thinking of creating a group for civic action which would support students working on this requirement and expand youth involvement in this area. She also continues to have a lot of conversations about the college applications and the emotions tied to the process. A few months ago YS Director Jen Ford shared with the committee that she wrote a recommendation letter for a HS student applying for a Coca Cola scholarship. Great news that the student received the scholarship!

4. Participation Report: Overall there has been an increase in participation. 11 youth joined Early Act, 5th grade girls group has six new faces and Youth Action Team (YAT) has a few new members. The level of engagement for YAT is struggling. One member reached out candidly to express their feedback about the group and let YS Director Jen Ford know how much it means to them. YAT is trying to schedule a joint meeting with Wakefield and is switching to Thursday nights which should help participation. YS Director Jen Ford hopes that meeting with Wakefield and witnessing an active, engaged group will help our group move forward. FreeForm went to paint plaster at "Look What I Made" and had a great time and is working on scheduling more events. Guiding Good Choices hosted the introduction session via Zoom with six participants and all registered for the program. The program will take a maximum of 20 and currently has 17 registered. Some parents/guardians with scheduling conflicts wondered if they could attend virtual and the decision was that it will not work to do this but the facilitators are considering offering a completely virtual option, with specific expectations set, later this spring.

5. Old Business: No old business.

6. New Business: The budget hearing is over and it went well. YS Director Jen Ford presented her powerpoint which included serious content highlighting issues facing our youth today and a request for a part-time assistant. The town has an opportunity to send a message to our youth with this department so hopefully YS will get the support needed from the town to make the commitment to the youth of our community. A new position was created, Public Service Director, which YS will now fall under. Typically departments will hear recommendations before the June town meeting and YS Director Jen Ford will let the committee know when she has some information. YS Director Jen Ford is currently

out of contract so Chair Peter Majane will reach out to the Town Administrator to schedule a meeting regarding this issue. Member Jacob Mullin-Bernstein will assist with social media. A member asked a question about meetings going forward and virtual meetings were extended to July so for now the committee will continue Zoom meetings. Members discussed the current meeting format and will look forward to in-person meetings in August.

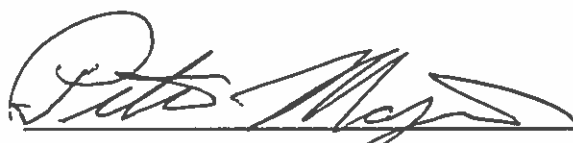
Chair Peter Majane thanked the members for their time and commitment.

Next meeting: April 25, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
February 2022 Minutes	2021 Youth Services Annual Report

April 25, 2022
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair