

## North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Monday, November 23, 2020 - 6pm

**Location:** Zoom – Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Deborah Mahoney	Samantha Miller	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Danielle Masterson, Vice-Chair		Amy DiChiara	Select woman Liane Gonzalez
Karen Buscemi, Secretary		Patty Harrington	NRYS Candidate Elect Jodi Sponzo
Frank Ferraro		Jason Slattery	NRYS Candidate Elect Yan Huang
Leslie Shultz		Christy Dampousse	

**Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.**

- 1. Review of Previous Minutes:** October 26, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- 2. NRYS Candidates Elect Introductions:** North Reading residents Jodi Sponzo and Yan Huang introduced themselves to the committee and expressed their desire to join the committee. Sponzo discussed her teaching experience and current involvement with a local Civic Action Project aimed at increasing youth interest in politics, and Huang discussed her personal life experiences as a stay-at-home mom, her love of the outdoors and desire to share this knowledge with North Reading's youth.
- 3. Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined she spent \$150 on three, \$50 gift cards from local businesses for the winners of the Halloween house and yard decorating contest. Jen received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event and is looking forward to creating a similar winter contest.
- 4. Social Services Report:**
  - YS Director Jennifer Ford reiterated how there have been continued conversations regarding mental health and socialization. She also received a phone call from a 42-year-old in town who had tested positive for COVID-19 and had run out of food during the 14-day quarantine. Jen took it upon herself to assist by shopping and delivering food and is now working with the North Reading Food Pantry to devise a plan to help others who may find themselves in this same situation in the future.
  - The Mental Wellness Action Team offered a self-care week. Jennifer Ford created the "Connect with Someone Challenge". The goal was to get people to reach out to one another, reconnect with oneself, and realize the importance of staying connected.
- 5. Participation Report:**
  - YS Director Jennifer Ford stated that participation has been increasing but she still does not have a place to physically meet. There have been outdoor activities but with colder weather creeping in that soon won't be an option. One of the favorite activities outdoors has been Disc Golf.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Group is still going strong with 4 members and when asked what their best/top experience recently was, one member stated it was coming to the meetings.
  - The Pen Pal Club, open to all NR residents, has been put into action with 30 participants (15 pairs of pen pals).
  - The Middle/High School Community Service Club filled instantly this year but due to COVID and Middleton being a red town, it had to be cancelled.
  - YS Director Jennifer Ford noted that mentoring would be virtual this year. The group currently has 6 mentors and 9 mentees.
  - The Youth Action Team is still meeting weekly. The members created a club slide presentation to highlight all the clubs being offered in North Reading to promote new membership.
- 6. Old Business:** With the success of the Halloween Costume and House Decorating contests, YS Director Jennifer Ford and Youth Services Librarian Danielle Masterson outlined their desire to team up again to create more joint activities.
- 7. New Business:**

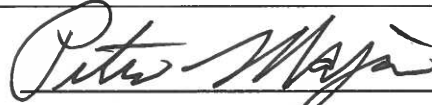
- a. YS Director Jennifer Ford announced the North Reading Board of Health reached out to her for assistance with COVID-19 contact tracing which she happily agreed to do.
- b. The Committee voted to change the scheduled December 28, 2020 meeting to December 21, 2020 due to the school vacation week which begins on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was also outlined that nominations and voting for 2021 positions would occur on the new date.

**Next meeting:** 12/21/2020 - 6 p.m.    Location: Zoom/Teleconference    Mtg. adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from October Meeting

December 21, 2020

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair