

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, September 23, 2019 6pm

Location: North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Amy DiChiara	Patty Harrington	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Karen Buscemi, Secretary		Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	
Danielle Masterson		Christy Damphousse	
Leslie Shultz		Samantha Miller	
Jason Slattery			

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

1. **Review of Previous Minutes:** June 24, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. **Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford reported an \$80.63 operating budget. The Gift Account was used to pay for transportation to/from the 2019 White Water Rafting trip. Jen outlined that she is still waiting to hear back from the Reading Cooperative Bank about a potential grant. She also outlined the need to generate funding for programming as she'd like to be able to minimize charges for all events and not discriminate between who can afford it and who can't. A tote bag fundraiser was suggested in light of towns starting to ban plastic bags at retailers. The use of NRYSSA (Gift Account) money was discussed again as to how it should be used and has been used in the past. Reimbursement was also discussed and it was agreed that the Youth Services Committee should address out-of-pocket expenses which are being reimbursed. The need for an assistant to the Youth Services Director was also revisited.
3. **Social Services Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford discussed her recent visits to high school Power Blocks where she introduced a reading series called "Social Justice" where kids will read a series of books and then watch the corresponding movies. The intent is to help build leadership roles and encourage more high school participation in Youth Services as this age group doesn't have a lot of extra time after school due to family, activity, and work commitments. Timing of advertising for Youth Services programming at the beginning of the school year was discussed and Jen outlined that she purposely delays sending out information until at least the end of September as she feels parents are inundated at the beginning of the school year with so many other emails/paperwork that hers would get lost in the mix. Fundraising was mentioned again and Hydro Flasks were added to the list of possibilities. The activity/club/sports participation fees were deemed not affordable by the average North Reading family and it was outlined that Youth Services programming is much more affordable and a valuable alternative. The conclusion was that the focus really needs to be on the youth rather than the price of participation.
4. **Participation Report:** Participation numbers were up and looking positive for FY20. Since July 1 there have been 125 participants which is up 73% as of FY18 and 50% as of FY19. Conflicts in town programming was discussed and it was agreed that it needs addressing. Summer programming participation numbers were up despite town programming competition, but it was noted that the High School White Water Rafting trip had to be cancelled due to lack of enrollment and the North Reading Police Department's Youth Police Academy also offered a White Water Rafting trip. Youth Services needed to rearrange their schedule due to conflicting programming in order to offer the best services for kids. The Youth Services Committee agreed that Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto needs to be notified about conflicting town programming and the need for better communication between departments to help serve the community as a whole.
5. **Old Business:** YS Director Jennifer Ford reiterated her desire to one day have a Youth Services Scholarship which would not be need-based or merit-based but rather lottery-based, open to all North Reading Youth Services participants who serve consistently in all four quarters for every year of their high school career, totaling 16 quarters. Participants would earn tickets which they would then drop into a lottery with the chance of earning a scholarship that could be used in whatever way the participant desires. Jen would like this scholarship to be a corporate sponsorship. Jen mentioned that some of the Youth Services Committee members are participating in the North Reading Community Impact Team's Youth Substance Use Prevention Coalition "Guiding Good Choices" program, a four-part workshop free to the community through November. Jen also mentioned confusion regarding a recent email from a parent who addressed the email to "Amy",

but sent it to the Youth Services email address. The parent was looking for community service hours for her son after a North Reading Police Officer spared him a ticket by giving him a warning and suggesting he do some community service. The confusion was whether this parent was actually looking for Drug Grant Coordinator Amy Luckiewicz with the police department, or actually looking for Jen in hopes of receiving service hours through NRYS. Jen did fulfill the request by the parent by creating a position for her son in one of the YS groups, however she outlined her contrasting opinion that community service be used as a "punishment". Term limits was revisited and the plan was solidified and approved by all members.

6. **New Business:** There was no new business.

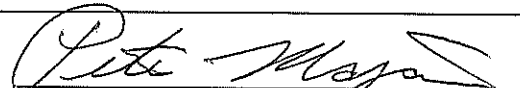
Next meeting: Monday, October 28, 2019 - 6 p.m., NR Town Hall, Rm. 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from June Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report
NRYS Committee Membership Terms Outline	

October 28, 2019

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair