



Youth Council Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2023

Item 1 | Call To Order

- The Meeting was called to order by Ali Atoui at 4:03 p.m.

Item 2 | Attendance

- James Brogna, Nathaniel Chines, Annabeth Goryl, Ali Atoui, Thomas Berinato, William Buswell, Michaela Lyons, Ahmed Othman, Madeline Naper, Sofia Panighetti, Vanessa Westlake, and Erin Caldo were in attendance.

Item 3 | Public Comment

- There were no members of the public wishing to comment.

Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Minutes from June 13 and September 6 were both approved unanimously.
- Mr. Collins, a new adult advisor from the Galvin Middle School briefly introduced himself to the council.
- Stephan Ingalls, a school committee member and liaison to the Youth Council was in attendance and introduced himself.

Item 5 | Liaison Positions

- Liaison Positions were confirmed and emails will be sent out introducing council members to their liaisons.

Item 6 | Potential for Youth Council Budget Subcommittee/Working Group

- The question of establishing a budget subcommittee to explore a budget for the 2025 fiscal year was brought up.
- There were ideas of sourcing a budget from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant for specific initiatives and a section of the town budget for general operating costs, as well as accepting donations.
- A general consensus was reached that a working group should be established.
- The question of establishing the working group was voted on and approved unanimously.
- Vanessa Westlake was nominated by Ahmed Othman to chair the working group and elected unanimously.

Item 7 | Communications

- The next meeting of the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee has been scheduled for Monday, September 25, and the agenda is available on the town website.



- The meeting will discuss the Wakefield Town Day plans for the Youth Council.
- Having interactive activities for children and adults were suggested for Wakefield Town Day.
- QR codes were also suggested to direct interested citizens to resources to learn about the Youth Council, as was used last year.

Item 8 | Bike Valet at Farmers Market

- Bike Valet sign ups for the Wakefield Farmers Market are still open.

Item 9 | Veterans Day Cleanup

- The Annual Youth Council Veterans Day Clean Up will be happening this year.
- The Warrior Cleanup Crew has partnered with the Youth Council to help with the clean up.
- Raffle prizes were suggested to help increase turnout.
- It was also suggested to continue donations from previous years to tie into the Veterans Day aspect of the clean up.
- The Communications and Outreach Subcommittee will continue planning the clean up further.

Item 10 | Announcements

- Vanessa Westlake brought up helping the Wakefield Human Rights Commission with active bystander training.
- Co-Hosting a training session with the Human Rights Commission was suggested by Catherine Dhingra.
- The idea will be pursued further by Michaela Lyons and Vanessa Westlake.

Item 11 | Determine Next Meeting Date

- A digital meeting will be hosted the week of October 7, with a Doodlepoll being sent out to determine the specific date.

Item 12 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

Item 13 | Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned unanimously.