



Youth Council Meeting Minutes - November 8, 2023

Item 1 | Call To Order

- The Meeting was called to order by Ali Atoui at 11:49 a.m.

Item 2 | Attendance

- Ali Atoui, James Brogna, Nathaniel Chines, Thomas Berinato, William Buswell, Annabeth Goryl, Ahmed Othman, Sophia Panighetti, Juliana Spaulding, Olivia Wall, Vanessa Westlake, and Erin Caldo were in attendance.

Item 3 | Public Comment

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

Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Minutes from October 18 were approved unanimously.

Item 5 | Youth Action Team Presentation

- Two Youth Action Team members, Abby Hodgdon and Siena Catizone gave a presentation about some of the projects of the YAT.
- The YAT will have more directed projects as the school year continues.
- Overall the YAT is focused on promoting youth health and wellness.
- Going forward, the Youth Council hopes to have a collaborative relationship with the YAT.

Item 6 | School Culture and Bullying Prevention Initiative

- The Youth Council is still pursuing the initiative and hopes to provide more opportunities for students and teachers to combat and reduce bullying.
- Additionally, the council hopes to help students examine school culture and how they can help reduce bullying going forward.
- The council hopes to use both quantitative and qualitative information about bullying when moving forward.

Item 7 | Snow Angels Shoveling Program 2023-4

- The Snow Angels program will be starting again soon.
- The current focus is to recruit volunteers and start promoting the program to seniors.
- The council will focus on digital and physical promotion.

Item 8 | Farmer's Market Bike Valet Debrief



- In the future, the council will focus on new ways of promoting the Bike Valet program and recruiting more volunteers.
- The council discussed ways to increase promotion and get information out to more potential volunteers.

Item 9 | Supporting Wakefield Veterans

- While the Youth Council cannot hold the clean up this year, it is still looking into ways to honor veterans.
- The theme of Veterans Day this year is service.
- Possible initiatives include promoting community awareness of the service of veterans and supporting education for youth looking into future military service.
- The council will also look into helping the Veterans' Advisory Board recruit volunteers for their events.
- All possibilities will be looked into further.

Item 10 | Open Town Meeting

- The next Open Town Meeting is November 18th at the Galvin Middle School.
- Issues being voted on include fiscal year 2023 budget report and the new town energy code, among others.
- While Youth cannot vote on issues, they are still allowed to attend and speak.
- The Youth Council is encouraging youth participation in open town meeting and is putting out resources to help youth get more involved.

Item 11 | Liaison Spotlight: Environmental Sustainability Committee

- Middle School Member Nathaniel Chines gave a presentation on the functions and initiatives of his liaison, the Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Right now, the ESC is focusing on increasing recycling in Wakefield public schools.
- Education is a large part of these initiatives, to inform youth about how to successfully practice recycling.
- Possible ways to integrate recycling awareness and practices into schools were discussed.

Item 12 | Liaison Presentations and Updates

- Annabeth Goryl met with her liaison from the library to discuss the financial grant moving forward.
- Juliana Spaulding and Catherine Dhingra met with safe routes to school to discuss new ways to collaborate going forward.

Item 13 | Communications/Outreach Subcommittee Updates

- Meet the members posts have started being posted.
- The idea of a press release is still being pursued.

Item 14 | Announcements

Item 15 | Determine Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be the week after Thanksgiving via zoom.
- A tentative date was set for Wednesday, December 6.

Item 16 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

- Nathaniel Chines talked further with the Wakefield Environmental club and is continuing to pursue collaborative projects.

Item 17 | Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned unanimously.