

## Ridgefield Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2022, 7:00-8:00 pm

Location: The Barn Teen Center

### **Attendees Members:**

Denise Dammer-Qualey Chairperson

James Yavenditti

Michael Lordi

Tina Malhotra

Rian Malhotra

Skylar Kleinman

Julia Knispel

Charlotte Bowler

- The meeting opened with Denise welcoming members and informing the group that Michael would assume the role of Secretary. The Youth Committee Members updated the Commission on how the new school year was going. The high school students appear to be taking advantage of the introduction of "flex time" to the block schedule. Flex time is a 26-minute block in the morning for students to connect with their teachers for extra support and meet with clubs.
- The Commission discussed strategies to recruit new members. Denise and the Youth Committee members will coordinate with the teen talk counselor at the high school to use a flex time session to introduce the Commission to the student body. It was suggested and agreed that it would be beneficial to have the eight Youth Committee Members comprised of two representatives from each year (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior). The Commission will ask the town to post that the Commission has openings and possibly see if a notice can be published in the Ridgefield Press.
- The October, November, and December meetings will be held in person at the Barn. The meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month. The January and February meetings will most likely be virtual using Zoom. Michael will forward the meeting schedule to the Town Clerk and request a Zoom account that the Commission can use for its meetings.
- Civil discourse in a polarized society as a topic was raised to gauge the members' interest in hosting a panel discussion for the community. The topic was well received, and the January meeting will be reserved for the possible date of the panel discussion. The makeup of the panel will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The Commission will look to hold another fundraiser during the holiday stroll. Youth Committee members will suggest possible entertainment for the event at the next meeting.
- Rion volunteered to take over the role of maintaining the Committee webpage. The website, Instagram, and Facebook content will be reviewed by the Commission at each meeting.
- Future agenda items will include a public comment period and an update on the Ridgefield Prevention Council.

- No official votes were taken during this meeting.