

Meeting Notes/Minutes - 9/6/23

Attendance:

Lila Niels-Duffy

Noah Leaf

Jade Rousseau

Myles Willers

Gabbi Hinds

Julia Krivoy-Einhorn

Ursula von Goeler

Margaux Galvin

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Ellie Kimball

Mayaan Seltzer

Haaliyah Friedman-Kassis

Amalya Mendelowitz

Amelia Durbin

Jasper Tuck

Zara Usman

Henry Daggett

Kai Anderson Flynn

Maddie Nakashian

Maisie Tuck

Alan Wolf

Brief summary of Vote 16:

The lowering of the municipal voting age to 16 in Northampton, currently being considered by the Massachusetts State Legislature Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Discussion of elected positions

Chair:

Leads the youth commission meetings and organizes work and outreach

Vice Chair:

Helps the chair(s) and may step in to assist or lead a meeting if need be

Secretary:

Keeps notes and minutes of full group meetings

City Council Liaison:

Goes to City council meetings, takes notes, and reports back to the youth commission.

Social Media Manager:

Organizes instagram posts and outreach via the internet

Working Groups:

Sustainability:

- Works to improve sustainability in Northampton
- Just joined NCEC (Northampton Climate Emergency Coalition)
- Last year the focus was electric busing, this past year was a round of bidding for the school buses (the school receives bids from busing companies which bid for the school's money) so new busses won't be introduced for a few years, but in the future there will hopefully be electric busses for the public school system.
- In the past, there was the plastic packaging reduction and sustainability ordinance (plastic bag ban) which was successfully implemented in northampton.
- The stormwater ordinance (rain tax) was also implemented by the youth commission sustainability subcommittee

Housing:

- Has been working on an initiative to modify the zoning code of northampton (see slideshow) to build housing near downtown with more units in order to lower costs and to increase walkability in northampton.
- Upcoming op-ed for the gazette regarding urban housing

Vote 16:

- Current bill refiled for this session - home rule petition
- There was a legislative hearing of the joining committee on election laws in June where the YC testified about the bill, which was hopefully well received.

Education

Outreach

A Hearing regarding AFAB and female input for the community:

- Current measures are finalizing dates, confirming attendees, and doing outreach to maximize attendance and influence.

Commission to Investigate Radicalized Harms Perpetrated Against Black Residents and Workers

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Picture Main Street:

- A movement to redesign Main Street to be greener and more Bike friendly.
- Recently added to the Transportation Improvement Program due to the very high crash rates (Car on Car; Car on Bike; Car on Pedestrian)
- Create a downtown more focused on outdoor dining, bikeability, and walkability, and reshifts the current retail oriented setup.
- There is a a state grant for 21 million dollars to do this renovation

Motion made to adjourn the meeting:

Motion made by Kai, seconded by Zara, approved through unanimous vote