

Norwich Childcare Committee
Approved Minutes
December 16, 2021

Persons present: Brian Loeb, Jamie Rosenfeld, Neil Odell, Rebecca Holcombe, Mary Layton, Linda Cook

1. Loeb moved, seconded by Layton to approve the agenda. Vote: Yes-Unanimous
2. Loeb moved, seconded by Odell to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021.
Vote: Yes-Unanimous
3. Public Comments: None
4. No correspondence was accepted.
5. The Committee will present its report in January 2022. Holcombe consulted Selectboard Chair Roger Arnold to confirm this.
6. Review of page four draft discussion and recommendations. There was wide ranging discussion of how best to express the findings of the committee in language that will accurately reflect the disconnect between the needs of families and the childcare options that are currently available, but not alienate people unfamiliar with the findings, so that the Committee can best educate the Selectboard and the public.
7. The draft was discussed at length. The executive summary three page draft was not shared or discussed at this meeting. It will be shared as part of the packet for the next meeting. Feedback was given about structuring the report to make it more readable to persons who have not studied the childcare situation in depth. The structure of the report should include a brief executive summary, a table of contents, pertinent narrative sections, a glossary, and a robust appendix with links to research and resources. Regarding what may have been left out of our research is the effect of the pandemic and consideration of benefits as part of the compensation package of early childhood educators.
8. If the Committee is allowed to continue after its current charge is complete, the following ideas were expressed by Loeb as possible tasks or advocacy actions: Costing studies regarding the school district providing early childcare beyond what is mandated by the state. Being a guide or host for state representatives who could attend parent forums or take local tours of providers. Develop a volunteer support network. Encourage outside advocacy groups to lobby state government for paid parental leave or other initiatives.
9. Committee members were given assignments on specific sections which will be submitted to the packet for the next meeting.
10. We will review the document as a whole at the next meeting. It was decided to hold two meetings in January to review and finalize the draft report. Rebecca will send out a survey monkey to schedule the meetings.
11. Layton moved to adjourn, second by Loeb. Vote: Yes-Unanimous.

