

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
September 27, 2018
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Shannon Aiello, Vicki Severin, Ron Rasi, Jackson Pierre Louis, MaryAnn Langton, Bev Jackson, Betsie Danforth, April Dipollina, Heather Dierberger, Dan Stewart

Others Present: Cres Secchiaroli, Todd Perkins, Carin Mancini, John Massicotte, Nick Capozza, Samantha Capozza, Rosa Quinones

1. Call to Order: 10:38 AM

2. Public Comment: Jackson acknowledged and thanked the crew for the wonderful work on the Camp grounds.

3. Additions to Agenda:

- Vicki – establishing recycling at the Camp
- Betsie – Youth Camp

4. Approval of Minutes:

Jackson motioned to accept the August 23, 2018 minutes. Shannon seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Fund Tax Status

- Vicki reported all documents have been submitted, approved and it is officially the Camp Harkness Foundation
- A meeting scheduled November 3, 2018 will welcome interested members
- Plans are to develop new by-laws, have a kick-off meeting and develop a calendar of events
- Date may change – Vicki will discuss with Marian
- An accountant has been hired

B. Activities

- Play Group is up and running
- April provided a schedule of meetings
- October 6, 2018 - a Field Trip to Nathan Lester House and Farm Tool Museum in Gales Ferry, CT has been planned by a parent participant of the group

C. Fund Raising Plans

- Heather has worked on developing online fund raising – she is setting up a Go Fund Me page for the Foundation
- She has linked it to the online Petition (Save Camp Harkness)
- The update is on Change.org and will be shared on social media
- The Foundation is now able to apply for grants
- The accountant suggested individuals be paid as independent contractors, ie, speakers, presenters, therapists

7. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant:

- Safety Concerns:
 - Samantha stated that there should be a method to address the need of local police and emergency personnel to be familiar with the Camp layout
 - Nick expressed concerns with inappropriate violations and how to deal with them
 - Carin shared that there is a protocol which could result in revoking the pass of anyone committing violations
 - Stan suggested that no one should be too confrontational with anyone if a situation happens – should document the activities being questioned and pass the information on to Vicki or Carin

- Maintenance Activities
 - John reported:
 - A tree fell at the infirmary – has been resolved
 - Pavement under Sun Shelter undermined
 - Discussion of Pavillion near Browns – funding still in question
 - 160 work orders submitted, 44 open
 - Assisted in upgrade of fire pit
 - Winterization of building is in progress
 - Maintenance on kitchen equipment
 - Received quote for paving low spot near Browns
 - Nick reported a dead tree; John will do a walk around
 - Nick has added more gardens around the Camp and developing more farm to table activities to involve campers
 - Brick installation successful
 - John reached out to DEP about invasive plants and restoring the marsh
 - Another maintenance position for Camp Harkness has been requested
 - Addressed the concerns of Bev and MaryAnn about filling and leveling areas around Browns where people have fallen
 - Stan stressed that it is a health and safety concern

ii. Camp Usage/ Events:

- Vicki gave August report – see attached
- Total for the Month: 7,205
- Fraternity came and worked on refurbishing the fire pits
- Members enjoyed a great evening with campers
- The Arc Strides Races scheduled for October 7, 2018
- Motor Cycle Run scheduled for November 4, 2018
- Vicki will meet with Family Support on distribution of gift cards the week after Thanksgiving
- Bev shared that she has a friend who wishes to donate knitted hats and scarves

iii. Camp Security - Training:

- Stan continues to work on setting a date

B. DDS Updates

- Cres reported:
- Developing a Step-Down Unit
- Budget options are working
- Continue to work on conversions – process is taking a lot of time
- Increase in Family Support Teams in region with more outreach to help people in their homes
- 8 (eight) new employees have been deployed to each region to assist with redetermination
- Position for Office Assistant at Camp has been posted

C. Advocacy

- Stan emphasized voter registration

8. New Business:

A. Mentoring Program

- Jackson reported that the department has embarked on a new project in fostering mentoring in Abuse and Neglect Critical Incident reporting
- Working on getting a system in place
- Technical support from Cedar Institute
- Will be compliance rather than outcome based

B. Recycling

- Vicki suggested that we get dumpsters to encourage recycling at Camp
- Carin will work on it and report next meeting

C. Youth Camp

- Betsie and interested members will be meeting afterwards to discuss first steps

9. Adjournment: 11:40 AM

Next Meeting: October 25, 2018 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary