

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
April 25, 2019
Minutes**

Present: Betsie Danforth, Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, Bev Jackson, MaryAnn Langdon, April Dipollina, Heather Dierberger

Others Present: Cres Secchiaroli, John Massicotte, Todd Perkins, Kacie Ware

1. **Call to Order:** 10:42 AM

2. **Public Comments:** None

3. **Additions to Agenda:** None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

March minutes were amended to state that MaryAnn has been the advocate regarding the plastic straw issue. April motioned to accept the March minutes as amended. Bev seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. April and MaryAnn abstained.

5. **Correspondence:** None

6. **Camp Harkness Foundation**

A. Play Group

- April reported that the paperwork to transfer Grant funds to the Foundation account to pay individuals is in progress
- Continue to discuss scheduling "Parents Night Out"
- Spring Clean Up – families are encouraged to attend on April 26, 2019 – no Play Group
- Wednesday scheduled Play Group time changed to 1-2:30PM to allow individuals in summer school mornings to be able to attend

B. Activities

- April shared links to events involving zucchini racing
- Ideas were discussed to make it a fun event – various activities and save the date notices
- Vicki stated that when summer staff is on board plans for Summer Fest will begin
- Brick order due date is April 30th
- There was a discussion about including 13-21 year age group in "Movie Night" activities and providing other alternatives for individuals when they age out of Play Group

C. Fundraising

- A Train Show was discussed as a possible fund raiser. Both April and Shannon's spouses are members of train clubs
- The groups have expressed interest in participating
- April and Shannon will coordinate a meeting and discuss a plan

7. Old Business

A. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant

- John reported activities
- Water is on
- Wrong color shingles were sent for roof replacement – new ones will arrive on Friday
- A tree was removed on road that Cres had voiced concern about
- Kitchen did not get cleaned due to problems with pricing/ quote
- Dishwasher needs repair
- Drawers of grill are leaking
- Sun shelter near beach awaiting approval of funds for repair - Cres stated that if the structure was unsafe its use should be discontinued, and he will explore options to expedite funding
- John, Todd, Vicki and Cres will do a walk thru after today's meeting to assess whether the Sun structure needs to be closed immediately
- It was stressed that the Shelter was very important and used in many activities at the Camp
- Betsie has a contact who will donate multiple sails of varying sizes – she will schedule a time to go out and look at what is available
- Purposed use as a possible sun shelter is ongoing
- Will be replacing some trees that were removed - John and Vicki will develop a plan and talk with an arborist

ii. Camp Usage/ Events

- See attached
- Vicki gave March report
- Clean Up – Saturday, March 27, 2019
- MS Walk – Sunday, March 28, 2019

iii. Camp Staffing

- Positions have been posted

iv. Youth Camp

- Open House – April 12, 2019
- Event was attended by two (2) individuals – they were given a tour of the facilities and were shown what's available
- Ray of Light will bring animals this summer
- Heather associated with a group that has partnered with Mohegan Sun La Cross in fundraising – suggested the possible development of activities for Camp Harkness

B. DDS Updates:

- Appropriation Budget will be out any time now - June 5, 2019 is the last day of the session
- MaryAnn will testify at the Friday hearing of Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
- Cres shared that the Respite Center in Putnam will open on June 11, 2019
- Cres discussed the pilot program developed for a Step-Down Unit
- It will open to serve adults 18 and older in Newington, CT
- A 365-Day Respite Center is expanding in Middletown – it currently operates Thursday thru Sunday

C. Advocacy

- MaryAnn continues to work on straw issue – a bill has passed through Committee
- Stan reported that they are still awaiting the Budget results
- No communication from Commissioner’s Office regarding Governor Lamont’s visit

8. New Business: None

- Vicki again opened discussion of dog issue and the need to clarify the policy

9. Adjournment: 12:10pm

Next Meeting: May 23, 2019 at Harkness Hall

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary