

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9609464276>**  
**Meeting ID: 9609464276**  
**One Tap Mobile +19294362866,,96094664276#US(New York)**  
**October 22, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Shannon Aiello, Heather Dierberger, Betsy Danforth, MaryAnn Langton, Bev Jackson, April Dipollina

**Others Present:** Cres Secchiaroli, John Massicotte

**1. Call to Order:** 10:43 AM

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Additions to Agenda:** None

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes were amended to change the day of the Play Group sessions from Sundays to Saturdays. MaryAnn motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Betsy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. Jackson abstained.

**5. Correspondence:** Stan reported that he'd received an email from Patricia West stating that she was unable to attend today's meeting.

**6. Camp Harkness Foundation:**

**A. Play Group**

- April reported that last session was cancelled
- They are attempting to put in other activities with the Music Therapist
- October 29<sup>th</sup> – Campfire drum circle planned with outside activities
- The event will be open to individuals with disabilities and their families, and staff
- Space is limited due to Covid restrictions and reservations are required
- April stated that she has tried Zoom meetings with parents, but it is difficult to schedule times
- It continues to be hard to facilitate conversations between parents
- April has attempted to use parent mentors to assist with families

**B. Fundraising**

- Heather has a fundraiser for the sun shelter up and running on a Go Fund Me page
- Presently, the site has raised \$400; a \$100 donation was made by Heather and her family
- Heather has shared the fundraising page once already which is the maximum number of shares she is allowed with approval; she can't share the page again herself
- She asked if it was possible for the Board staff to also share the page through Constant Contact
- The EIN number was incorrectly inputted for the Camp Harkness Foundation, and was therefore associated with the wrong name, not the Camp Harkness Foundation
- Vicki and Scott are trying to resolve the issue
- Heather suggested getting a donate button on Facebook
- Heather also questioned if organizations which use Camp Harkness could donate to fundraisers
- Stan responded that monies raised are needed for the organizations themselves
- Jackson suggested obtaining donations through area grocery shopping, or online shopping
- Heather suggested asking individuals to round up change on purchases at local merchants

### C. Sun Shelter

- The groundwork for the sun shelter is coming along
- The crew has poured the concrete slab and made walkways
- The old shelter has been set aside; decision for its new location is still under discussion
- Utility issues prohibits it being placed between cabins
- A suggestion of placement near the Nature Trail was made
- Placing the shelter opposite the flagpole is a concern because of wet areas
- Another suggestion was placement near Cottage 1 alongside basketball court
- Stan asked if a plan of the Camp was available to help visualize placement and utilization of the old gazebo
- John reported there was a 3-week delay on delivery of materials for the shelter
- Possible completion date might be end of November
- Wall and walkways in progress are near complete

## 7. Old Business

### A. Camp Report

#### i. Physical Plant:

- Crew working on clean up and winterization
- Bev requested that the buttons on the bathroom keypad be larger and possibly in braille
- John will research options
- Stan will send an email to NEAT

#### ii. Camp Usage/Events:

- Vicki gave September report (see attached)
- 59 special events
- 3 fitness Sundays
- 28 tent campers
- Camp closed on September 8<sup>th</sup>
- 1986 visitors/ 643 turnarounds
- 13 volunteers
- Camp is participating in scarecrow contest for the Town of Waterford
- Gate has been reactivated at the entrance
- Camp is open between 8am-5pm, daily for household groups only
- Summer staff is leaving October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- There are still no indoor activities
- Vicki asked Cres about any changes; he responded that due to an uptake in Covid cases, Phase III re-opening is postponed
- There was no discussion of Camp Harkness
- On November 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a Festive 5K Walk/Run – registration is required
- There will be a virtual option for participation as well

### B. DDS Updates:

- Cres reported that modifications were made to provide a level of service at Day Programs, Respite and Camps during the summer
- Due to the uptake in Covid cases, the respite center in southeastern CT is closing
- They are working on the budget – Covid has been very costly for the State

### C. Advocacy

- Stan restated that voting is very important

**8. New Business:**

- Bev and Heather restated their appreciation about the hard work that was done by the staff over the summer with the impact of Covid
- Bev stated that the garden looked very beautiful due to Nick's hard work
- They both stated their appreciation for the staff, especially Vicki, John and many others, who made Camp a positive experience this summer
- April motioned that this recognition of the staff be put into the minutes
- MaryAnn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved

**9. Adjournment:** 12:05 PM

**Next Meeting:** December 3, 2020 – Holiday Celebration, TBD

**Respectfully submitted by:** Shannon Aiello, Secretary