

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9609464276>**  
**Meeting ID: 9609464276**  
**One Tap Mobile +19294362866,,96094664276#US(New York)**  
**April 29, 2021**  
**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** John Massicotte, Marian Brown

**1. Call to Order:** 10:38 AM

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Additions to Agenda:** None

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

The March minutes were amended to correct date of the next meeting from April 21<sup>st</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, to correct spelling from “Bob Lowdes” to “Bob Lowndes”, and to change “team counsellor” to “teen counsellor”. Bev motioned to approve minutes as amended. Betsy seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. April abstained.

**5. Correspondence:** None

**6. Camp Harkness Foundation:**

**A. Play Group**

- April reported that the Play Group met last Saturday in person
- Music Therapist was present for 3 kids
- Camp Fire Circle is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup>
- April to retire at the end of June; Liz Coleman will be the new coordinator
- No activities are currently scheduled; there are plans to do something in May
- There will be 2 new coordinators
- Saturday Clean Up Day – Camp Harkness Foundation will provide snack; flyers were sent out
- April feels press releases should start again

**B. Fundraising**

- Still on hold
- Marion reported that there are no plans to show off Sun Shelter until there is a resolution as to what the State’s reopening plan will be

**7. Old Business:**

**A. Camp Report**

**i. Physical Plant:**

- John reported good news: Bond Commission met; \$500,000 will come to Camp Harkness
- John and Vicki looked at the Master Plan and discussed accessibility of the Blue and Yellow Cabin bathrooms; shared proposed plan to make them ADA accessible
- Replace furnace in cottages, new flooring, paving
- Bev mentioned accessibility of general office bathroom and recreation area for Brown Cabins
- John stated that his first concerns are for things that have been neglected for years
- A 4-passenger+ wheelchair golf cart is on order for use at the Camp
- Vicki ordered an adult changing table for family bathroom
- Summer hiring was approved
- Approval to move fully ahead has been given by Patricia West, but the Governor is still discussing plans
- Seaweed issue is resolved: State will ensure deeded rights are respected
- A gate meeting will be held with the contractor

- Patrol will be in office to see who is at the gate
- Heather asked if the duct work in the cottage is ever cleaned
- John responded that there hasn't been any known cleaning since he's been at Camp – he will ask Chris Pierce to take care of the issue
- Old gazebo moved to Nature Trail

**ii. Camp Usage/Events:**

- Vicki gave March report (see attached)
- No cabin users
- 12 participants for Family Support Group
- Matt reported he figured out how to count Pass Holder visits: 268
- 6 volunteers
- Camp Director's meeting
- Vicki attended online State-wide Camp Fair
- New London schools to utilize money from State initiative for outdoor experiences for children
- Vicki's position has been posted – interviews to start
- Would like to transition new person starting in May
- There are presently 2 candidates
- Sails were located – John talked with Drew (carpenter) and they will begin work on plans

**B. DDS Updates:**

- None

**C. Advocacy**

- Appropriations Committee released proposed budget
- Monies in DDS budget around employment – projections are good
- Monies to make up for difficult years
- NPA (Non-Profit Alliance) Thank You Campaign is on website

**8. New Business**

- Betsy asked if there were possible ways for Towns to get children to Camp Harkness campus
- MaryAnn suggested Camp Harkness Foundation sponsor camperships to get children to attend from Towns
- Vicki discussed the certifications needed to run a Youth Camp
- Betsy suggested we notify different departments to give options
- Marian suggested sending a letter to SPED directors who wish to inquire
- Stan suggested meeting in the new shelter next month

**9. Adjournment: 11:55 PM**

**Next Meeting:** May 27, 2021 by Zoom meeting

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