

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
October 22, 2015
Minutes**

Present: Bev Jackson, MaryAnn Langton, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, Thomas Dailey, Ginny Hogan, April Dipollina (teleconference)

Others Present: Kristen Anbari, Debbie F., Ernie Smith, Neil Cobliegh, Ernie Smith, Frank Provenzano, Carin Mancini

1. Call to Order: 10:38 AM

2. Public Comments: Kristen Anbari expressed her thanks for her son's experience at Camp Harkness – "I love Camp Harkness"

3. Additions to Agenda: Vicki and Carin requested review and discussion of Camp Harkness applications process for passes

4. Approval of Minutes: MaryAnn motioned to approve the September 24, 2015 minutes. Bev seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

5. Correspondence:

Vicki reported on the process of approving the agreement for National MS Society Walk on April 17, 2016

- DDS legal will review the agreement and are in the process of getting a Certificate of Insurance
- Hope to present a draft at the December meeting

6. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Monthly Report

- Vicki reported that there was an anonymous donation of \$5000
- A call was received from a lawyer requesting an IRS letter be sent for the donor
- The donor does not want to be acknowledged
- Kristen requested that she be added to the Camp Harkness Fund email group
- Hope to have a calendar of events published
- Fall Festival on Sunday, September 27, 2015 made between \$600-700
 - 6 vendors were onsite
 - Bouncy house was donated for the day
- Water features in the garden were built by Nick and a volunteer
 - Some monies from the Fund were used – less than \$400
 - Stones were utilized from the park
- Bev wondered what was going to be done with the \$5000 donation
 - Vicki responded that the funds would be used for programs, camperships and equipment (ex. Bench)
 - Approximately \$9000-\$10,000 are currently available in fund
 - The plan is to purchase things the State cannot buy or anything small on the Master Plan that can be purchased by the Camp
 - Compact surface and add stone dust under beach pavilion – if cost is not prohibitive
 - Picnic tables are not wheelchair accessible, even the ones that are supposed to be
 - Leaps of Faith (Sandy Hook) has an accessible table
 - Need to look into purchasing accessible tables

- Campers also liked the Mobi-boat
- Kristen asked if a swing could be donated and installed?
 - Ernie said there would have to be an inspection of the tree and cable

7. Old Business:

A. Camp Report

i. Camp Usage/ Events

- See attached
- October 20, 2015 – Pfizer volunteers clean up in garden, brush removal in barnyard, garbage pickup and bulb planting
- October 23, 2015 – Halloween Party
- October 24, 2015 – Autism Speaks

ii. Physical Plant

- Ernie reported on progress in Brown Cabins
 - Started installing grab bars, toilet paper holders, moving soap dispensers, ordering mirrors
- Frank reported that DOT will come down and price out the signs
 - Ernie's crew could make the signs with the right tools
 - Thomas suggested using picture symbols as was done in the Wallingford Office
- It was a tough financial year – anticipate losing 3 of our maintenance staff before the camp opens
- Dining room bathrooms are done – grab bars and toilet paper holders have been installed
- It was asked if donations and volunteers could be solicited to fill the gaps in monies and less staff
- Betsy shared information about the Mystic Seaport "Pilots" which is a Seniors Volunteer Program
 - Question posed about modeling a program after this one, perhaps for 2 weekends per year
 - Vicki and Carin will reach out to Mystic Seaport
- Question: When is National Beach Clean-Up Day?
- Suggestion to possibly move Spring Clean-Up Day to April (Earth Day)
- Suggestion to create email distribution groups and Facebook page to publicize Clean-up day

B. Website Update: Rescheduled

C. Bingham Beach

- No updates
- DDS has no authority for land transfer
- Benefit: no access through the camp

D. Swimming Safety

- MaryAnn's issue with the tube has been resolved with Caroline
- Further issues will be discussed on a case by case basis
- Communication to life guards for special exceptions

8. New Business:

- Question was posed as to the requirements for a handicap pass from the DMV
 - There is a Camp Harkness Pass Application

- Concern on disabilities – need Medical doctor certification
- 2011 – all new passes were issued
- 2500 applications were processed in the last 3 years
- Questions: Can it be completed on-line? How do applicants know if their application has not been acted on?
- Carin will email current application out to CHAC members

9. Adjournment: 11:36PM

Next Meeting: December 3, 2015 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary