

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee**  
**Camp Harkness Office**  
**301 Great Neck Road**  
**January 26, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** April Dipollina, Vicki Severin, Stan Soby, MaryAnn Langdon, Ron Rasi, Bev Jackson, Thomas Dailey, Shannon Aiello, Dan Steward, Jackson Pierre-Louis

**Others Present:** Neil Cobliegh, Rachel Hardy, John F. Coleman, John L. Coleman, Kathleen McCarty (State Representative 38<sup>th</sup> District- Waterford), Paul Formica (Senator 20<sup>th</sup> District)

**1. Call to Order:** 10:35 AM

**2. Introductions and Welcome Visitors**

- Committee members had extended invitations to their Representatives to attend this first meeting of the year. All felt this would be an opportunity to highlight the facility and provide information on all the services it provides in order to advocate for continued funding. State Representative Kathleen McCarty of the 38<sup>th</sup> District and Paul Formica, Senator of the 20<sup>th</sup> District, were in attendance
- April welcomed the guests and committee members before making introduction
- April submitted a Camp Harkness Yearly Report which highlighted Camp Harkness as a public and private collaboration. Members were able to show the value of Camp through the vast use of cabins, special events participants, tent campers, residential campers, and day visitors numbering in excess of 35,300, as well as usage by 106 other groups and agencies.
- Long time campers MaryAnn and Bev emphasized the importance of the camp in their lives and for many others with whom they have formed relationships while at the camp. Bev stressed the partnership between campers and DDS
- Betsie Danforth, a parent member, sent written testimony of the camp's impact on her son's life over several years. Many activities have contributed to his social and emotional well being
- April shared her experience using the facility as a parent. She referred the camp to members of Family Support Network which provides a playgroup at the camp.
- Representative McCarty was pleased to learn a lot about Camp Harkness and to also hear about the gaps from families

**3. Public Comments:** None

**4. Additions to Agenda:** None

**5. Approval of Minutes:**

December 1, 2016 minutes were amended:

- Navy Chiefs fundraiser was corrected to "Navy Chiefs Holiday Party"

Jackson motioned to approve minutes as amended. Ron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**6. Correspondence:** None

## **7. Camp Harkness Fund:**

### **A. Monthly Report**

- i. Brick Fundraiser**
  - Vicki reported that a new form is available on the website. Forms will also be sent when individuals request reservations
- ii. Cook Book Fundraiser**
  - Thomas continues to research legalities
- iii. Clean up Day – Earth Day, April 22, 2017**
- iv. Comedy night**
  - Event on hold until more particulars can be arranged
- v. Healthy Cooking Series**
  - 4 classes will be held starting in March
- vi. Play Group**
  - April has flyer and proposed dates:
    - Feb 25, March 25, April 29, and May 30 - 10am to 11:30am at Camp Harkness
  - Continuing to work on volunteers from Mitchell College

## **8. Old Business**

### **A. Camp Report – see attached**

- i. Camp Usage/ Events**
  - Vicki gave December report
- ii. Physical Plant:**
  - Chris reported that a plumber will be coming to set up water access for kettles next week
  - Electrical will come after that for installation
  - Fence at beach has been moved
  - Flag pole was damaged in the wind, crew will repair

### **B. Gate System Status:**

- Vicki working with Tyco to expand capacity
- Vicki gave December report

### **C. DDS Updates**

- No updates
- Budget options continue to be submitted

### **D. Advocacy**

- Family Day will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Legislature
- Stan suggested having a table for information about Camp Harkness during Non Profit Days; he will speak with organizers
- Dates include Feb 21-25 and April 25-28

**9. New Business:**

**A. Election of Officers in January**

- Nominees:
  1. Stan Soby – Chair
  2. April Dipollina – Vice Chair
  3. Shannon Aiello – Secretary
- Ron motioned to accept the slates of officers. MaryAnn seconded the motion. All were in favor and slate was approved.

**B. Eagle Scout Project**

- John F. Coleman from Eagle Scout Troup 20 requested the opportunity to do his service project at Camp Harkness
- His proposed project is to:
  1. Provide solar lighting at seating area (benches)
  2. Clean pathway (overgrowth) to beach from cabins
  3. Build bird houses

**C. Thank you to Visitors**

- Thank yous were extended to Representative McCarty and Senator Formica for attending and listening to the information and concerns for the continued support of Camp Harkness

**9. Adjournment:** 12:08PM

**Next Meeting:** February 23, 2017 at Camp Harkness

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