

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee  
Camp Harkness Office  
301 Great Neck Road  
July 26, 2018  
Minutes**

**Present:** Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Ron Rasi, Bev Jackson, Betsie Danforth, April Dipollina, Shannon Aiello, Heather Dierberger, Thomas Dailey, Jackson Pierre Louis, MaryAnn Langdon (tele conference)

**Others Present:** Sharon Liberty, Carin Mancini, Warren Schilling, John Massicotte, Joe Zinko, Cres Secchiaroli, Peter Mason, Jordan Scheff

**1. Call to Order: 10:33 AM**

**2. Welcome Commissioner Scheff, Deputy Commissioner Mason and Cres Secchiaroli, Director of Facilities**

- Stan welcomed individuals and introductions were made by the committee and other present

**A. Remarks**

- The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were taking this opportunity to visit and tour Camp Harkness while it was fully operational, campers were at camp, and numerous activities were in progress
- At this time, they were also here to address maintenance issues and discuss procedures to effectively use resources with present constraints of downsizing and budget cuts
- They are trying to balance the needs of the Southeast Region
- April asked about funds regarding housing **Idash**
- The Commissioner responded that some funds had been awarded and they were funding it cost-effectively to support a cluster of individuals
- Deputy Commissioner Mason added that the bulk of monies have been assigned, but there were still some monies available
- April's group hopes to do submit a proposal
- Commissioner Scheff and Deputy Commissioner Mason reported that they enjoyed their visit to Camp Quinnabog – they said it was a beautiful facility and that a new Pavilion had been completed there
- Vicki commented on a need for a Pavilion at Camp Harkness
- The Commissioner thinks it is a good investment; the Camp Quinnabog facility was funded by bond funds
- The possibility of funding for Camp Harkness will be discussed
- Bev shared her concerns about a possible attack at the Camp given our present reality
- The Commissioner expressed concern – the Camp is such an open space
- Stan asked if there was someone to contact with State Police for general guidance
- Further discussion will continue, and Stan will follow thru with establishing contacts to share with the Committee

**B. Tour**

- Vicki will take Commissioner Scheff and Deputy Commissioner Mason on a tour of Camp Harkness

**3. Public Comment:** Sharon Liberty, a long-time camper, took the opportunity to thank maintenance staff for their quick response in providing grab bars in Brown Cabins. She was very impressed.

**4. Additions to Agenda:** None

**5. Approval of Minutes:**

Bev motioned to accept the June 26, 2018 minutes. April seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ron and April abstained. The minutes were approved.

**6. Correspondence:** None

**7. Camp Harkness Fund:**

**A. Tax Fund Status**

- The accountant is reviewing paperwork
- Working on 503C status

**B. Play Group**

- Speakers were rescheduled to have as many parents present as possible
- Attendance will increase when summer school ends

**C. Creative Housing Group**

- Numerous providers attended
- Parents had the opportunity to listen to providers and share their needs

**D. Brick Events**

- Continue to take orders for Bricks

**8. Old Business**

**A. Camp Report**

**i. Physical Plant:**

- Maintenance Support Structure:
  - John Warren reported that they have moved to a work order system
  - Last month they received 66 orders
  - 12 remain open, in process, or waiting for parts
  - Joe Zinko is overseeing the region – he is scheduled to be on site at Camp Harkness for 2 days and is working from Meriden
- Activity
  - Oak Hill sewage line needed to be dug up
  - DOT was on site trimming and taking down dead trees
  - Cres Secchiaroli shared information on how the computer system tracks work orders and shows volume/ where resources are needed
  - After camp season is completed, they will need to meet to discuss approval to hire an office assistant to help Vicki coordinate Camp operation

**ii. Camp Security:**

- Stan will identify resources and make contacts Maintenance Support Structure:

**iii. Internet Service:**

- Vicki reported that the system is in good working order

**iv. Camp Usage/ Events:**

- Carin gave June report – see attached

**B. DDS Updates**

- Thomas reported ongoing conversions

**C. Advocacy**

- Stan shared information about the Connecticut Post sponsored Debates of Primary Candidates – it will be live streamed
- Stan's comments to staff: "To Advocate, you need to be informed and engaged."
- April will attend the October 11, 2018 Candidates' Forum in Cromwell. She will send information and a flyer by email
- MaryAnn is working on the plastic straw ban issue
- MaryAnn met candidate Ned Lamont - she pursued him to have a conversation

**8. New Business:**

Heather Dierberger received her approval June 27, 2018. The Committee welcomed her as a new parent representative member.

**9. Adjournment:** 11:47 AM

**Next Meeting:** August 23, 2018 at Camp Harkness

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