

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
June 26, 2025
Minutes
Camp Harkness Office and Online via Teams

Present: Shannon Aiello, Stan Soby, Betsie Danforth, Bev Jackson, April Dipollina, Cres Secchiaroli, Ann Marie Poudrier, Elisa Marcaux, Jackson Pierre-Louis

Others Present: Laurie Allen, Brian K. Smith, Samson Herbert, Adrianna Ramirez

1. **Call to Order:** 11:00 AM
2. **Additions to Agenda:** Discussion of fiber optics
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Jackson motioned to approve May 2025 minutes. Bestie seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
4. **Membership:** No update
5. **Camp Report:**
 - A. **Physical Plant:**
 - Issue with refrigerator in Dining Hall; discussion of purchasing a new one in the fall
 - B. **Camp Usage/ Events:**
 - Elisa gave the May report (see attached)
 - Day Visitors: 972
 - Tent campers: 4
 - Events: IDD Day
 - Worked with Rocky Neck lifeguards for advanced training
 - Master Gardeners: 56
 - Melissa has been working very hard to keep up with the grounds; they are beautiful
 - Continued issues with lifeguard schedule; reposting a part-time lifeguard position
 - Theo did an excellent job training new lifeguards; but going forward only re-certified or certified lifeguards will be accepted for employment
 - IDD Day was very successful; over 700 participants
 - The Summer Camps have started to move in and train their staff
 - Camp Harkness Foundation meetings have been scheduled for the last Wednesday of every month
 - Discussion of Train Show, Fall Festival, and the Grant for the Forest Walkway
 - Play ground construction will start on September 15th; could take 3 weeks but we are allowing 4 weeks
 - Access to Pavillions 2, 3 and 4 will be restricted
 - Stan suggested a ground breaking event for the start of the playground construction; possibly at the Fall Fest
 - Questions raised about giving passes a limit; if possible to be reactivated every 3-5 years
 - Possible picture on passes
 - Brian will investigate options and do a phase-in process at the expiration of current passes
6. **Foundation Report:**
 - April reported that Shirley has been elected as President
 - Thanks to Theo for her hard work organizing the Foundation Information book

7. DDS:

- Brian reported that DDS has released a direct support staff job board
- Cres reported labor action averted; administration agreed to a settlement; they agreed to an historic level of infusion funding to private providers
- Legislative session ended; DDS bill did pass – avenue to add CCH license to registry
- This included approval of med-certified staff to provide injections
- Jackson worked with subgroup to amend the language
- Work with probate court will give access to registry
- Undertaking program development for this year's graduates
- Ivana has been appointed to a different position
- Brian requested Advisory Meeting contact information be on the website
- Proclamation for Unified BBQ has been received and sent to Texas to be certified
- Jackson suggested fiber optics be considered for more efficiency; Cres responded that it was obviously a large bond project – will look into the issue and talk to IT
- Cres will continue discussion with Jackson and Brian

8. Advocacy:

- Stan continues to keep tabs at the Federal level
- The Governor responded very positively at the State level

9. New Business:

- Ann Marie requested information regarding access to mobility chair
- Elisa responded to contact DEEP, Reserve American for reservation
- Continued discussion of youth programs; Possible partnerships or obtain sponsors

10. Adjournment: 12:28 PM

Next Meeting: July 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary