

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
Camp Harkness Office
301 Great Neck Road
January 28, 2016
Minutes**

Present: Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, April Dipollina, Bev Jackson, Ron Rasi, MaryAnn Langdon, Ginny Hogan, Betsie Danforth, Dan Steward, Jackson Pierre-Louis

Others Present: Ernie Smith, Frank Provenzano, Neil Cobleigh, Debbie F.

1. Call to Order: 10:43 AM

2. Public Comments: None

3. Additions to Agenda: None

4. Approval of Minutes:

5. Correspondence: None

- MS Foundation insurance waiver was received and agreement was requested
- Questions were raised as to whether or not the waiver is needed or if signing off on the camp rules would be adequate

6. Camp Harkness Fund:

A. Monthly Report

i. Presentation

- A presentation is being developed with slide show and flyers for the Camp Harkness Fund website
- Vicki received help from with a laptop and pointer for the website from a young lady in New London
- The hope is to get some “hot spot” type of system for next summer

ii. Wellness Workshops

- Workshops start March 5, 2016 with a Naturopathic Workshop – day-long event
- \$35 includes lunch
- Nutrition classes will follow – 3 classes at \$5 each
- Fund will subsidize classes
- Meditation workshop will also be offered

iii. Summer Fest

- Date will be Saturday, July 30, 2016

iv. Spring Clean up

- Clean up in May was late last year
- Suggested that this year’s clean up might be on Earth Day, Friday May 22, 2016
- Another possibility would be on the Day of Caring, Saturday May 23, 2016 – however, Passover starts that weekend, so no Saturday before April 16th would be a good time

v. Fencing

- Donation for fencing from Bill T. in the amount of \$500 is a good start but work will have to be done to raise the additional funds needed

vi. Uncommitted Funds

- Uncommitted funds amount to \$9000
- some will be used for camperships
- wheelchair accessible picnic tables are needed – current tables are too high
- MaryAnn will research “Pilot Rock” – a company on file which may be a source of equipment; she will get quotes

7. Old Business:

A. Camp Report

i. Camp Usage/ Events

- October 2015: 2360 people, 260 cabins, 2095 attended special events, etc; Pfizer Cleanup
- November 2015: 1400 people, 150 cabins, 1295 attended special events; Motorcycle Gift Run
- December 2015: 255 people, 135 cabins, The Arc New London County Winter Camp; other special events; gift run gifts and gift cards were distributed, 295 individuals and families benefited
- Reservations: working on 1st round with hundreds of calls; will wait until April for people to get second reservation; many want August 15th when camps end and kids are on vacation
- Accessible tools for Gardeners: Joan wants to donate them; Vicki will decide if the donated tools are appropriate and if not, perhaps they may be obtained from Camp Harkness Fund
- Camp has two donated electric beds

ii. Physical Plant

- Frank reported that Ernie’s crew worked on signs
 - Signs will be on Azek plastic – paint first then router
 - Most will be painted hunter green – use color of cabin groups
 - Bleach and water to clean
 - 16 signs for \$100 (vs. quote of \$9000)
 - 4x4 post on each side with sleeve and cap painted gray
 - Questioned used of solar cap as well
 - Bev asked if they were available in braille at correct height and code
 - Stan responded that the signs were more for drivers
- Brown cabins – mirrors were hung in half bath, towel racks are up
- Funds are available for Dining Hall exterior work
- Bathroom doors will be replaced with single wide doors, possibly automatic once – has to be done in spring
- Barn area and beach areas are okay
- Question regarding picnic tables to be made in Azek vs. pine material – old picnic tables were great per Bev; Vicki will check catalogues

B. Website Update

- Waiting for conformation from Carin
- Front page – applications and updates to DDS Camp Harkness website
- MaryAnn concerned about people not knowing to look at DDS for Camp Harkness
- Work is being done to add links from Camp Harkness Fund website – if “Camp Harkness” is searched on Google you get “Harkness State Park”, then “DDS Camp Harkness” - with two (2) clicks you are at the website

C. Seniors Volunteer Program

- Will be like Mystic Seaport Pilot Program
- Betsie will call Seaport Memberships to learn more

D. Camp Pass Application

- Question as to whether current application is okay or if Autism should be listed
- Carin has feedback on this and will share when she attends next meeting
- Nancy has some issues with applicants' answers – should they be signed by a doctor or is it okay for them to be stamped
- Nancy may refine and get the process to come to Harkness Park
- Check with Carin Mancini and have secretary and maintenance department work on-site rather than at Uncas

E. Bingham Beach

- The Beach is now a part of Waterford Park
- Questions were raised regarding security, people walking through, parking problem
- Dan said that their beach fills up
- There is a need to educate gate staff to ask for pass holders and turn away non-pass holders
- If visitors can show proof of disability they could come in and fill out a pass application
- Questions were raised regarding what reasonable things could be done to reduce the flow
- Staff training; add more security staff
- Camp Harkness staff would work on gate and stop traffic
- Jackson said requests for additional summer staff would have to be made now

F. Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule: Approved

G. Election of Officers

- Ron motioned to re-elect same slate of officers (Stan: Chair, April: Vice Chair, Shannon: Secretary); Jackson seconded the motion. The slate was approved.

8. New Business:

- No plan was made for the next Master Plan Meeting
- Ernie and Frank will meet with Contract Office in an attempt to get roads done this year
- There may be money available by the end of this year or first quarter of next year

9. Adjournment: 11:48PM

Next Meeting: February 25, 2016 at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary

With thanks to Betsie and Stan for taking and sharing their notes in my absence