

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9609464276>**  
**Meeting ID: 9609464276**  
**One Tap Mobile +19294362866,,96094664276#US(New York)**  
**December 3, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, Heather Dierberger, Betsy Danforth, MaryAnn Langton, Bev Jackson, April Dipollina

**Others Present:** John Massicotte

**1. Call to Order:** 10:41 AM

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Additions to Agenda:** Seaweed rights

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

Bev motioned to approve the minutes. April seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**5. Correspondence:** None

**6. Camp Harkness Foundation:**

**A. Play Group**

- April reported a successful campfire drum circle with Music Therapist
- It was open attendance, so 1 new family and some families that have aged out were in attendance
- This was a good opportunity to reach individuals of all ages
- Attempt for another event was not feasible due to Covid 19 spike
- April will submit overview report to the Grand Committee
- They understand about the delay with the report
- April had a virtual meeting with parents as a means of communication
- 8 registered for the meeting and 6 attended
- She will try for another meeting before the holidays

**B. Fundraising**

- Motorcycle Gift Run was attempted online or virtually
- Only 12 attended and dropped off gift cards
- Funds and cards totaled \$3000 as compared to \$8000 last year
- The focus will be on individuals who are really in need
- December 12<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the drop off and delivery around the area
- The Chief's Club may contribute some gift cards
- Santa will deliver and drop off gifts at group homes
- November 28<sup>th</sup> Festive 5K was cancelled by Governor
- people drove through to pick up swag bags
- EIN number issue is still unresolved – accountant continues to work with IRS

### **C. Sun Shelter**

- Waiting for kit to arrive
- John shared that it would arrive on December 9<sup>th</sup>
- It would be assembled 2 weeks from arrival
- Bev asked about new location for old shelter and John stated that there was an ongoing discussion about where it might be relocated
- Vicki suggested that the shelter might be relocated on the ridge near the Nature Trail
- Heather discussed the Go Fund Me page for the shelter – current total is \$535
- John donated \$100 and there were 2 other donations
- To generate more money, others need to share the page
- Vicki suggested suspending the Go Fund Me account until after the Holiday fundraising

## **7. Old Business**

### **A. Camp Report**

#### **i. Physical Plant:**

- John reported that new conduit for phone lines was installed
- DEP mowed phragmites and will return in the spring
- Gate was repaired
- Two trees which fell were taken care of by the crew

#### **ii. Camp Usage/Events:**

- Vicki gave October report (see attached)
- Groups attended: Rhett Syndrome (41 people) and Arc of Eastern CT (122 people)
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Booth closed
- Total of 622 people attended
- 307 turn arounds
- 13 volunteers
- Vicki also gave the November report
- Special Events: 118 people attended
- 52 Waterford High School runners
- 12 for Motorcycle Run
- 115 people walked through the park
- 14 volunteers

### **B. DDS Updates:**

- Stan received an email from Pat West that she was unable to attend
- Due to the uptake in Covid cases, visitations are limited

### **C. Advocacy**

- No decision about Camp next summer
- Stan is working with Easter Seals national staff to include workers (direct care and provider staff) in essential worker vaccine pool
- Advocating on the State and Federal level – Stan will send out more information

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Seaweed Rights:**

- Vicki reported that she was contacted by a resident of Dimrock/ Greatneck Community with a request for access to Camp Harkness
- This individual stated that she and family members had deeded rights to harvest seaweed at the Camp
- Vicki found an old deed from 1852 and an updated agreement from 1998
- Stan stated that there be a resolution of documentation, and a request that individuals make reservations to be on the property that were consistent with Covid restrictions posed by the State
- Visitors must be in compliance with restrictions imposed by the State due to current Public Health issues
- Vicki contacted the individual and requested a list of people who wanted to come into the Camp
- During his investigation of this request, Stan found a greater issue of the entire Camp Harkness property not being listed on the Town Property Maps
- The entrance to Camp was changed, but it was not updated on the Town Maps
- Stan suggested that the names of those who had legitimate rights and documentation to access Camp be put in a data base
- John asked what precipitated the issue about access, and suggested that it go to the DDS attorneys
- Vicki responded that the individual had expressed concern about lack of access to the Camp this summer
- Vicki will send all the information she has to John

### **B. Seaweed Rights:**

- Vicki shared that former Camp staff members have become parents
- Everyone shared wishes of a Happy Holiday Season for all

## **9. Adjournment: 12:31 PM**

**Next Meeting:** January 28, 2021 by Zoom meeting

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