

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
May 27, 2021
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Vicki Severin, Shannon Aiello, Betsy Danforth, MaryAnn Langdon, April Dipollina, Bev Jackson, Heather Dierberger, Jackson Pierre-Louis

Others Present: John Massicotte, Cres Secchiaroli, Patricia West, Elisa Marcoux, Mayra Ortiz, Marian Brown
Introductions to meet new Camp Director, Elisa Marcoux

1. **Call to Order:** 10:45 AM

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Additions to Agenda:** None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes were amended to add the text: "video patrol will be in the office to see who is at the gate". April motioned to approve minutes as amended. MaryAnn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

5. **Correspondence:** None

6. **Camp Harkness Foundation:**

A. Play Group

- Play Group had one (1) in-person activity, one (1) campfire night
- Music Therapist wishes to continue partnership
- April handed out flyer to announce a meet and greet for the two new coordinators
- No new events are scheduled at this time
- Heather wondered if the L&M grant that funds the Play Group would still be available
- April will still be able to access the grant through her position at L&M

B. Fundraising

- Discussion of Train Show in the fall
- Also having discussion regarding Motorcycle Run

7. **Old Business:**

A. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant:

- John reported putting in specifications for remodeling of two cabins
- Installing conduit to gate house
- Summer staff is catching up with mowing
- Super deck is going in today
- Specs for Bath House in progress
- Duct work cleaned
- Replacing water heaters
- Plans for paving
- Major work to start after Camp session
- Nature Trail to be redone for access to gazebo placement
- Changing room to be opened – at present both are being used for storage
- Mounting adult sized changing table in Bath House
- Excellent new carpenter was hired
- Two housekeeping staff were hired
- The Arc crew coming back June 1st - John will meet with them next week
- Three cottages – replacing flooring, removing bathtubs and replacing with wheel-in showers

ii. Camp Usage/Events:

- Vicki gave April report (see attached)
- 72 special events
- 66 pass holders
- 138 individuals
- 12 volunteers
- Interviews in May – positions remained open
- Several people have started at the Camp
- Bev asked how many people were returning, emphasizing that it was important that they know the campers
- Vicki responded that several were returning

iii. Status Reopening Plan Updates:

- Taking table reservations June 1st
- Camp open to pass holders allowing 5 guests

iv. Sun Shelter Sails:

- John will formulate a plan after he looks at the sails

B. DDS Updates:

- Cres reported subcommittee for reopening Respite, Camps, and Day Programs is making sure everything is safe
- Potential major strike next week
- RFP is proposed for Children's Step-Down Unit
- Opening 12th Respite Center in Meriden open 365 days per year
- Additional funds for Respite; more services for children
- Preparing for retirement of many workers within the next year - direct care staff and maintenance
- Camp Harkness received 20% of funds allocated by Bond Commission
- Funding for the Camp hadn't been on the agenda for 2 years
- Legislative liaison wants to arrange a press conference with the Governor to showcase how these monies will be used
- Cres will update Stan

C. Advocacy

- Stan reported Bill regarding language for CHAC passed in the House
- Encouraged everyone to contact Governor and State legislators to support monies for private providers

8. New Business

- None

9. Adjournment: 12:20 PM

Next Meeting: June 24, 2021 at 10:30am at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary