

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
January 27, 2022
Minutes

Present: Stan Soby, Heather Dierberger, Shannon Aiello, April Dipollina, Bev Jackson, Elisa Marcoux, Rob Brule, MaryAnn Langdon

Others Present: Chris Pierce, Myra Ortiz, John Massicotte, Greg Deschamps

1. Call to Order: 10:35 AM

2. Public Comment: None

3. Additions to Agenda: None

4. Approval of Minutes:

Amend to clarify staff participation in Play Group activities is not viable. Amend Fundraising to clarify that the grant from Dunkin Donuts can be up to \$25K. Amend to state that the Donate button issue is not resolved. There is not a Donate button on Facebook for Camp Harkness Foundation. Bev motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Heather seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as amended.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Camp Harkness Foundation:

A. Play Group

- April reported that there was no new information for the Play Group
- Camp staff emphasized that they are going forward to build a partnership with the Play Group
- Contact information for Kate Colman will be forwarded to Jackie
- Myra stated that organizations can't use/ hire Camp staff to support their activities
- Activities can occur, but child supervision must be the Group's responsibility
- April will reach out to the Family Support Network to address the needs of younger children

B. Fundraising

- No additional updates

C. Play Ground

- Play By Design sent blueprints and suggested a Zoom Meeting
- Heather and Elisa agree it should be an in-person site visit and will get Marion Brown's input
- Elisa suggested there be more interactive activities
- Chris's staff has materials to make the existing playground functional for this season
- Elisa shared that O'Brien and Son stopped by the Camp yesterday; they built the first playground
- Chris suggested that they continue to look at options
- Heather developed a flyer to send out to other organizations
- Planned Walk in June – will send out a "save the date" card
- Stan asked if Hartford has funds to put toward the playground

7. Old Business:

A. Camp Report

i. Physical Plant:

- Elisa reported that John is looking at options to replace tree that was removed from Brown Cabin garden area
- Possible option of a sunshade
- Plans to make planters more functional in the garden area

ii. Master Plan:

- Proposed additions to Blue and Yellow cabins are on supervisor's desk
- Plans for new roofs and close in gable ends on the Bath House
- Meeting next week regarding paving issues
- Dump site / Nature Trail clean up: no response from company contacted to clean & chip debris
- Weather prohibits completion of drainpipe to swamp
- Conduit for phone lines is in
- Bench issue resolved
- New system for gate – entrance can be viewed and opened from the office
- Elisa stated that the reservation system went up the chain of command – company to supply for free but suggestion of charging a fee stalled the progress
- Company has not responded further, and the issue is now in limbo
- Cottage 3 is now a 4-season cabin
- John is working on specifications for Beach House
- Elisa questioned the status of funding
- John stated that Bond funds do not expire
- Elisa stated that discussion of choosing one type of bench for the entire Camp is still open

iii. Camp Usage/ Events:

- Elisa reported for December (see attached)
- Pass machine is down for repair
- Number of visitors is incomplete
- Cabin users: 11
- Volunteers: 4
- Master Gardners: 6
- Elisa stated that at the Camp meeting for planning for the upcoming summer: the Arc is uncertain; Sunrise will do a residential program; OakHill will do residential programs
- Myra and Camp staff met with Camp directors – it was requested that each Camp submit a detailed plan as to how they will utilize the kitchen/ dining room area

B. DDS Updates:

- None
- Stan stated that DDS has drafted its next 5-year plan; it is available on website

C. Advocacy:

- Stan stated hopefully agencies will be able to keep funding for Home Community -based services
- The Non-Profit Alliance is holding forums

8. New Business:

A. Dan Stewart Passing

- MaryAnn asked about the status of doing something in memory of Dan Stewart
- Stan suggested that the discussion continue off-line

B. Dan Stewart Passing

- Rob Brule stated that he would like to introduce the new team at the Waterford Town offices
- He will also share contact information
- He also stated that Waterford ordered test kits and masks for the Group Home and staff at Camp
- He would like to drop them off later this week
- Elisa thanked Rob and stated that she was looking forward to working with the Town officials
- Greg requested that he be put on the mailing list

9. Adjournment: 12:12 PM

Next Meeting: February 24, 2022, at Camp Harkness

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary