

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
September 25, 2025
Meeting Minutes
Online via Teams

Present: Shannon Aiello, April DiPollina, Rob Brule, Allison Van Etten, Betsie Danforth, Bev Jackson, Cres Secchiaroli, Elisa Marcaux, Jackson Pierre-Louis

Others Present: Laurie Allen, Brian K. Smith, Eric Carrero, Chris Pierce

1. Call to Order: 10:40 AM

2. Additions to Agenda: None

3. Approval of Minutes: Jackson motioned to approve the minutes. Betsie seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. Membership: No Report

5. Camp Report:

A. Physical Plant:

- Chris gave report
- He is working with volunteers for fire pit
- Planning activities for 40 college students coming to volunteer; Activities include putting together picnic benches, working on trail, possible painting if weather permits
- Distinctive Trees will be removing dying trees along roadway towards the Beach
- Jason is working on trail with Vanessa and volunteers; having good success
- Chris is working with Brian and Elisa regarding next season as he is retiring this year

B. Camp Usage/ Events:

- Elisa gave July/August report (see attached)
- Cabin users: 106
- Tent users: 41
- Day Visitors: 4663
- Volunteers for Garden: 13
- Master gardeners: 63
- All camps left the first week of August
- Upcoming events for September include: Unified BBQ, Fall Fest, and Abilities Experience
- Upcoming October events include:
 - Terry Brouder Race - October 4th
 - Strides Race – October 5th which is the Arc's biggest fundraiser
 - Camp O'Lantern – October 17th – This is a fundraiser that Melissa, our horticulture director has taken leadership for and recruited from the Elks and the Lion's Clubs – pumpkin carving and a pot luck will be the night before in the Dining Hall
- A \$1000 donation was made to the Foundation from the Unified BBQ – possible use of funds to purchase a grill for campers
- Discussion of combining Fall Fest and Unified BBQ is ongoing

6. Foundation Report:

- Members are busy planning Camp O'Lantern event, the Train Show event and the Motorcycle Run
- Laurie Allen reported on organization of the Retreat for Mothers; they received a donation from the Cactus Jack Foundation. It will be an overnight event in the Cottages and Brown Cabin. Scheduled activities include yoga, massage, a walking tour, and meditative activities

7. DDS:

- Brian reported on Chris's retirement
- He also reported that the Agency is preparing for a potential strike by several residential providers; they will continue periodic monitoring of the situation

8. Advocacy: No report

9. New Business:

- Discussion of changing the date for the Holiday Celebration
- Discussion of changing the date of May meeting to coincide with IDD Day

10. Adjournment: 1 Motion to adjourn was made by Betsie. Jackson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM

Next Meeting: October 23, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary