

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
March 27, 2025
Minutes
Camp Harkness Office and Online via Teams

Present: Shannon Aiello, Stan Soby, Betsie Danforth, Bev Jackson, Elisa Marcaux, Jackson Pierre-Louis, April Dipollina, Cres Seccharroli, Ann Marie Poudrier

Others Present: Jackie Staller, Adrianna Ramirez, Brian K. Smith, Lori Allen, Rachel Kessler

1. **Call to Order:** 10:43 AM
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Ann Marie motioned to approve the February 2025 minutes. Betsie seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
4. **Membership:** No update
5. **Camp Report:**
 - A. **Physical Plant:**
 - Oil tank finally installed
 - Tree in front of the Dining Hall has to be removed
 - Several other trees must also be removed
 - Sensory Room is almost completed
 - B. **Camp Usage/ Events:**
 - Elisa gave the February/ March report (see attached)
 - Tent Campers: 0
 - Day Visitors: 404
 - Volunteer Groups: Connecticut College track team worked throughout grounds blowing out leaves
 - Bingo Night was successful; thanks to Jackie for the contacts, advertising; ticket sales; and for manning the entrance table with Elisa
 - Bidding process has started for the playground
 - Elisa presented on a YouTube event sponsored by CTFSN for camps available this summer
 - Cres reported that the Polar Plunge was successful. Thanks to Waterford Ambulance for their support. Elisa supported the event as a lifeguard. 17 DDS individuals participated and raised \$4000
 - Interviews started in February. Elisa and Jackie have worked with the HR Department to improve the process. Still looking for lifeguards and maintenance staff. Brian shared that he might have people available for lifeguarding.
 - Reservations which were taken in January have been verified
6. **Foundation Report:**
 - Scheduling meeting to discuss upcoming events: Fall Fest and Train Show
7. **DDS:**
 - Cres reported that he received a letter from OPM (Office of Policy and Management) regarding cost savings. At present hiring is being curtailed
 - They addressed the immediate concerns from DDS on positions in progress
 - OPM gave assurances that Camp positions will go forward and they will be filling direct care positions
 - Cres stated that he is following DDS bills put forward and he will send a list of those being followed which could impact us
 - Cres received an okay from Special Olympics' Legal Department to use the terminology "Unified Barbeque" for the event he is planning

8. Advocacy:

- Stan stated that he continues to discuss bills and get information out to people

9. New Business:

- Disability Day is on May 23rd.
- Horse Program wants to come to Camp again this season.
- Stan and the membership extended congratulations to Ann Marie for her 2nd runner up award in the Miss Amazing Contest.

10. Adjournment: 11:29 AM

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary