

Camp Harkness Advisory Committee
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385-3825
January 23, 2025
Minutes
Camp Harkness Office and Online via Teams

Present: Shannon Aiello, Stan Soby, Bev Jackson, April Dipollina, Ann Marie Poudrier, Elisa Marcaux, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Allison Van Etten, Rob Brule

Others Present: Jackie Staller, Eric Carrero, Adrianna Ramirez

1. **Call to Order:** 10:42 AM
2. **Additions to Agenda:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** April motioned to approve the December 2024 minutes. Ann Marie seconded the motions and the minutes were approved.
4. **Membership:** Jackie provided a list of mental health associations that use the Camp. Stan will try to contact someone to become a member of the committee.
5. **Camp Report:**
 - A. **Physical Plant:**
 - Working on replacing the Dining Hall oil tank
 - Completed painting all 5 Brown Cabins
 - Replacing sidewalk in front of Rogers House
 - Setting up gates to service the 2025 season
 - Installed a wall and added outlets at Dorcas Lodge for a sensory room program
 - Requested work order to have tractor repaired that rakes the beach
 - B. **Camp Usage/ Events:**
 - Elisa gave December report (see attached)
 - Cabin users: 5
 - Day visitors: 667
 - Master Gardeners: 14
 - Office Staff: 6
 - Special Events:
 - Chief's Christmas Party
 - GUIDE Holiday Party
 - Camp Harkness will receive \$1000 to go into the Trustee's Account
 - Elisa and Jackie spent 2 weeks preparing for the 2025 season; purchase requisitions were prepared, and they met with Chris regarding upcoming events for 2025
6. **Foundation Report:**
 - The Foundation is in the process of reorganization. A meeting is scheduled tonight at 5:30pm
 - Train Show is tentatively scheduled for the 1st week of November 2025
 - Rob Brule stated that he will sponsor an event at Camp through the Community Event Fund
7. **DDS:**
 - Ongoing restructuring
 - Jackson reported that the public division that was centralized years ago will be divided again by regions
 - Elisa and Eric met with state officials regarding the playground; Eric was able to get a plan of action, and they left the meeting feeling more confident of the project going forward
 - Jackson shared a source of volunteers "MAC", a group of state managers who will volunteer their time; he will coordinate and will advertise to this group

8. Advocacy:

- Encouraged everyone to continue community advocacy
- Stan reached out to the Commissioner on the importance of the Play Scape

9. New Business: IDD Awareness Day is May 23, 2025; possible change Advisory meeting date from the 21st to that day. This suggestion was discussed and approved.

10. Adjournment: Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting; April seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Next Meeting: February 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Aiello, Secretary