

Town of Somers
Camp Ayapo Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2014
7:00pm - Kibbe Fuller

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brad Pellissier at 7:00pm. Members present were: Barbara Capuano, Patrice Carson, Ken Coelho, Ed Giza, Walter Nielowicki, Brad Pellissier, Steve Squillace, and Dominic Wilson. Members absent were: Lucas Cherry. Others present: There were 12 citizens in attendance.

2. Public Comment

AHCommittee members introduced themselves and their interest in serving on this Committee.

3. Review Charge

Chairman Pellissier reviewed the Committee's charge (below) and opened the floor.

- a. Primary Focus -A plan of strategic goals and objectives for the recreational use of the property.
- b. Secondary Focus -Plans for security and the reduction of vandalism.
- c. Third Focus -A plan for maintenance and upkeep of the property.

Chris Bolduc, Mulberry Lane resident and abutter of the Camp, expressed his concern about vandalism. He would love to see people/kids/teens enjoying the woods like he did as a kid, but sees a lot of things that probably shouldn't go on happening already. He doesn't want to see any housing, but would like to see a recreational area including swimming. He enjoyed going to shows the Village Players used to have. He walks the property pretty often. He's heard rumors about not using the lake at all which he thought would be a shame, for swimming and ice skating. The Bolduc's offered to volunteer to help watch out for the property.

Mr. Mehl commented that there was good fishing and has observed ice fishing.

Mr. Bolduc asked about the buildings and their status for the future. Chairman Pellissier explained the review of the buildings and how they may or may not be kept.

The AHCommittee discussed how other places get maintained. There are many places like Camp AyaPo so there must be different ways to maintain them. Do they get grants? What are their revenue streams? Do they have volunteers? Chairman Pellissier wanted AHCommittee volunteers to reach out to: Crandall Park in Tolland (P. Carson), Northwest Park in Windsor (D. Wilson), Nahaco in Woodstock/Eastford (B. Capuano), and other places, East Longmeadow Camp (S. Squillace), and report back at the next meeting if possible. Chairman Pellissier will follow up with Sargent Claudio to see if he obtained any additional information discussed when he met with the AHCommittee.

Chairman Pellissier reported that he hadn't heard from the Selectmen regarding the map and what is being kept, i.e., land and/or buildings.

Mr. Bolduc expressed his concern about people wandering off the trails and onto private property, and maybe the trails could be better marked.

B. Capuano suggested checking into insurance before there is too much discussion of use, especially with regarding to overnight camp. E. Giza who is in the insurance industry didn't think there would be much difference between day and night time use.

B. Capuano also liked the idea of signs indicating "No Parking - Cars Will Be Towed". Camp Road was almost not passable last weekend. K. Coelho said there were about 25-30 cars parked on the street. It seems like more of a current safety issue and the abutters are already seeing problems.

The AHCommittee agreed to skip a week so the next meeting would be Thursday, February 20, 2014, beginning at 7:00pm in the Kibbe Fuller Building. D. Wilson would like to see a statement of intent for the property and a reconfiguration of the map from the Town or have one of the Selectmen come to the meeting for discussion. Chairman Pellissier will ask for clarification in writing of the scope of where the town is and what the AHCommittee has to work with.

4. **Review of Minutes**

January 30, 2014 - There was discussion to add on page 3 at the end of the 3rd paragraph from the bottom, "*K. Coelho felt the AHCommittee didn't offer enough options and should look at that again.*" **Motion by** B. Capuano to approved the minutes as amended. **Seconded by** E. Giza - 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

January 23, 2014 - There was discussion to remove from the first motion on page 3 the words, "*past Dillenback*" and, "*which is wet, has drainage concerns, uranium contaminated wells*". **Motion by** W. Nieliwocki to approved the minutes as amended. **Seconded by** D. Wilson - 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

5. **Adjournment**

Motion by P. Carson to adjourn the Camp Ayapo Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 8:40pm. **Seconded by** S. Squillace - Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice L. Carson
Committee Secretary