

**Town of Somers
Camp Ayapo Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 20, 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, Lucas Cherry, Ed Giza, Walter Nielowicki, Brad Pellissier, and Steve Squillace. Members absent were: Ken Coelho and Dominic Wilson. Others present: There were 12 citizens in attendance.

2. Presentation by Colin Drury E. Longmeadow Park and Rec

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

Mr. Colin Drury from East Longmeadow Park and Rec was invited to talk to the AHCommittee about his experience. Mr. Drury discussed his background. He was involved in two Y Camps, the first was Camp Norwich, near Huntington, MA. The camp is 90 acres with 14 buildings and privately held. The buildings needed to be made useable which was done with the help of volunteers - campers parents, neighborhood people, etc. - you use the resources you have. Mr. Drury worked there for 6 years.

The second camp is Pine Knoll in East Longmeadow, formerly Pine Know Swim School. The Town of East Longmeadow bought this camp in 1996 and it has taken almost 20 years to complete the refurbishment with the pool being the last piece to finish this year. In addition to the pool, this camp has 7 buildings, 2 sheds, 3 soccer fields and a baseball field and was in awful condition. When Mr. Drury began they fixed one building with Community Preservation Funds (a Massachusetts funding source for Massachusetts properties) and began running the camp out of that one building. Last year, they had 180 campers a week for eight weeks, so it has been very successful.

The camp basically funds itself. The Town pays for the electricity and manpower to do big jobs onsite. DPW does weekly checks. There are security gates and the buildings are locked. The camp is mainly a summer use (some fall) and open from 7am-8pm and is a drug, alcohol and smoke-free zone. The focus is a property for families and youth use.

Mr. Drury said don't change the name, especially since people know the name and have fond memories attached to it. Have clear goals - it took 20 years for East Longmeadow to finish and rehab the camp, be patient, it will happen.

The AHCommittee thanked Mr. Drury for his time and valuable information.

An audience member, Kevin from Enfield, has been part of a rental of Camp AyaPo one weekend a year from 1993-2010 for AA. It is a great way to have a drug and alcohol-free family weekend for people in AA, it was always successful, and he hoped the Camp could still be used in that way in the future.

Another audience member was concerned about swimming. They would not want to see swimming allowed and then taken away.

3. Pepsi Supporting Towns

S. Squillace reviewed the details of the Pepsi Project. All the volunteers are lined up for this project so no more are needed for **this** day, but volunteers will certainly be needed for other days. S. Squillace will review the additional details at the next meeting.

4. Review of Draft

The AHCommittee began a line-by-line review of the draft drawn up by Chairman Pellissier. Corrections were made to the first half of the draft. Concern was expressed about the suggestion that the camp was going to be offered for businesses to rent. It had been expressed before that there were other places to do that and the Camp shouldn't compete. The property was also supposed to be for family and town use. It was the consensus that sentence would be removed.

It was decided that W. Nieliwocki would review the rest of the draft, make any grammatical corrections, and email it out to the AHCommittee so it can be reviewed ahead of the meeting. Members should bring their comments/suggestions/questions to the next meeting so the draft can be finalized. Once finalized, another public hearing session will be scheduled, any amendments made after hearing reflecting public comment, a final draft submitted to the Board of Selectmen, and a follow-up discussion meeting with the Board of Selectmen held if necessary.

5. Correspondence

The Chair distributed one additional letter that was written to the AHCommittee.

6. Plan for next meeting

The next AHCommittee meeting will be on Thursday, April 3, 2014, beginning at 7:00pm in the Kibbe Fuller Building. The details of the Pepsi Project will be discussed, and a new draft of recommendations will be sent to AHCommittee members ahead of the meeting so everyone can review it and come to the meeting with their comments.

7. Review of Minutes

No minutes were reviewed. March 6, 2014 minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion by P. Carson to adjourn the Camp Ayapo Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 9:10pm. **Seconded by** E. Giza - Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice L. Carson
Committee Secretary