

**Camp Aya - Po Strategic Planning Committee
Minutes
Monday, August 10, 2015
Somers Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room
7:00 pm**

Call to Order: Selectman Kathy Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Members Present: Tom Van Tassel, David Arnold, Timothy Welch, Barbara Capuano, Michelle Young, Paul Rasic, Rob Hartman, Lucas Cherry, Patricia Loftus, Christopher Boucher, Timothy Kradas, and Town Liaisons Jeff Bord and Bruce Urbon.

Review of Charges from the Board of Selectman:

Kathy Devlin asked members to introduce themselves and then read the entire list of confirmed Committee Members listed below. She explained that the term expiration was 12/22/2016, at which time the Selectmen may decide to extend the committee based on interest and availability of members.

Voting Committee Members include: Tom VanTassel, David Arnold, Timothy Welch, Bradley Pellissier, Barbara Capuano, Michelle Young, Paul Rasid, Rob Hartman, Lucas Cherry, Patricia Loftus, Christopher Boucher, and Timothy Kradas. Town Liaisons are Jeff Bord and Bruce Urbon. Mrs. Devlin told the group she has volunteered to lead the first meeting and be available as the BOS liaison.

The charges were read:

1. To analyze, assess and determine a usage plan for the Camp Aya-Po property.
2. 2.Recommend a preservation and usage plan for the buildings and structures located at Camp Ayapo.
3. Recommend a fundraising program to support the usage and preservation plan.

Election of Officers:

Motion: B. Capuano. **Second:** David Arnold to Nominate Bradley Pellissier as Chairman. No further nominations. Passed unanimously

Motion: T. Kradas. **Second:** M. Young: Nomination for Barbara Capuano as Vice Chairman. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Tom Van Tassel. **Second:** Rob Hartman: To Nominate Michelle Young as secretary. Passed unanimously

Open Discussion:

Members of the group asked the current status of the property. Jeff Bord gave a brief overview of the buildings within the Town owned property: Hilltop, the restrooms in the middle of the property, Avery Hall (where shows, the kitchen, stage and walkout overseeing the lake, and some buildings that might need to be taken down such as the area where the counselors, nurses station, and showers and baths existed. He also

suggested that may need to put in restrooms closer to the caretaker's cottage to comply with the new handicap accessibility regulations.

The committee would like more information about the history, as well as maps and drawings, footprint for existing buildings that can be viewed or even sent ahead of the next meeting. Paul Rasid will work with Jeff Bord who will gather the maps and get them ready for the members. Barbara Capuano will communicate with Brad Pellissier and inform him that he is chair and ask him to bring the maps he had for discussion at the next meeting.

Kathy Devlin suggested that everyone read the Camp Aya-Po Ad Hoc Committee report prepared and handed to each member. She felt many of the questions and concerns are addressed in the study, explanations and recommendations made in this document. Further there was discussion about clarifying the charges as to the limitations of the charge- does it include all the acreage or just the footprint dedicated as Town Property. Additionally, what are the restrictions of the grant, current security measures, insurance cover and parking? Additional comments were made about the interest Scouts would have to work on the property, how to liaison with the OSTC, at which time Chris Boucher identified himself as a member of the Open Space and Trails Committee. He will get updates to the group on the work and trails for the committee. It would be a desirable outcome to invite the Chair Ann Moses to a future meeting to develop synergy for grants, fund raising and to see where the groups may work together. Further discussion included a desire to preserve the bell, a review of current signage and potential need for more/updated signs, involving the state to provide water quality testing, use of the facility for State Police K-9 training and potential Indian heritage on the site. Lastly, to understand if the name of the camp must remain as is.

Meeting Dates:

For at least the next meeting, they would like to try for once a month. The committee realizes the great amount of work to be done and will migrate to twice a month once the chair and committee meets to assess what they have, and surges forward to determine what they recommend is done with the property. The group agreed that for the first month or more they will meet on the second Wednesday. Then, they may be able to migrate to the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. **Motion:** B. Capuano. **Second:** T. Kradas meetings to occur second Wednesday, September 9th. For the first meeting the committee will meet at 6 to tour the property and then convene at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall for the business meeting.

Adjournment: 8:06 P.M. Motion: Tim Kradas. **Second:** Tim Welch. Passed unanimously.