



# THE CAMP MATTATUCK VOLUNTEERS

Connecticut Rivers Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
P.O. Box 257, Plymouth, CT 06782-0257



## SUMMER MEETING

Aug. 2, 2022

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### MINUTES

#### Attendees:

Patrick Sheridan, Chairperson  
Pete Gati, Vice Chairperson  
Sean Fogel, Director of Support Services  
Jeromy Nelson, Reservation Director  
Noah Cross, Reservation Program Director  
Brad Mead, Properties Committee Chair  
Pat Malin, Ranger  
Jenifer Watkins, Secretary  
Brian Shannon  
Gabe Rinaldi  
Rob Mendela  
Joe LeClair  
Andrew Belske  
Phil Sanzari  
Beth Nelson  
Alex Mendela  
Sam Goetz  
Maggie Bellemare  
Ethan Cratty  
Ethan Glenn  
JT Plona  
Noah Kielle  
Casey Lennur  
David Fitzgerald  
Arlo Hatcher  
Joe Gannon

1. Call to Order & Welcome [Pat Sheridan] At this meeting, we will discuss dates, events, finances, projects and take questions.  
This is our more casual meeting. January is our more formal meeting.
2. Projects Rebranding [Jeromy Nelson]
  - Departmental signs done with new patch & logo designs
  - Done with graphics artist & design company. It gives uniformity to all of it.
  - Volunteers paid for it, it was done in off season and it is great press.
  - We own the logo now in multiple colors.

- Kudos to Noah for spearheading this and following through with it.

### 3. Funded by Volunteers

- By nature new teaching area off to the side with benches and podium.
- Also, one off by scoutcraft to be built.
- L. E. Boude donation, Husband was a SM in Troop 162 in Woodbury. She paid for changing station down at the waterfront. She gives money each year. Done with volunteer labor.
- Completed the boat house Troop 230 Al Pontunis.
- Troop 480 donated cornholes and cleared a spot by Mohawk field for troops to stop & play there.
- Benches at waterfront built around the fence donated by family and friends in memory of Frank Rodrigues who was waterfront director. Put in benches so that this is now a teaching area instead of logs.
- Charlie Troop 109 completed the blacksmithing area construction off of the STEM area. Benches around it with gravel. May need to add some lighting, but otherwise completed.
- Numerous plantings and mulch. Fence painted around climbing tower by Jeromy's daughters.
- Public latrines started, but not completed yet. By volleyball court.
- A group that did platform repairs.
- Did volleyball upgrade: new posts, net, sand.
- New sand for beach.
- Gravel under pavilion.
- Completed five new program areas for Cub Scout day camp. Tested it out for next year to see how it works best.

### 4. For next year

- Human foos ball area in camporee field area, or possibly to be in the apple tree area by the road, if fits there, year-round activity.
- Pour a concrete pad for a Hungry Hungry Hippos activity with scooters.
- Better internet into camp. Many SMs try to work from here to make it possible to attend and it is also needed for outside groups. Starlink. Got price on redoing new system for \$4,500. It is also needed for sales at trading post due to location with internet access.

### 5. Numbers at camp

- Numbers in Scouting are down, but we did really good this year in numbers of youth served, not just scouts.
- Laurel Music Camp
- Day camp programs ran
- STEM day camp that is partnered with two school districts
- Scouts BSA programs – no matter what they are
- LDS groups coming at end of summer
- And Foster Kids camp that is run between them
- Will see just under 1,200 youth though the property over the summer.
- All help with this; staff and volunteers. Met with 4-5 other groups and Troops who are interested in a troop and information.
- Camp doesn't end anymore. It is a year-round thing. Whether it be Forging events, climbing tower events, Polar Cubs. Every month we are putting on events at camp.

- Pat's budget is the year-round budget – non-camp, Memorial Day to Labor day falls in the summer all the rest falls in Pat's budget. Pat already met his budgetary income goal, which means that we serviced more kids than expected.
- Year-round program to keep kids engaged.
- Donation for brand new archery targets, ones that would last longer, take less repairs, and volunteer funded.
- Jean Horan has been painting signs at camp too.

#### 6. Take Down Day

- Besides the program areas groups want to use will be August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Will pull out row boat docks because the other groups will be pulled out then because groups will launch from the beach. Keep swimming areas at least while we have groups here.

#### 7. Ton of other little projects that staff members and volunteers have done. Former Committee chairman's family donated coffee mugs and Lucas N., Pete Gati, & Brian Shannon created coffee mug holders be the coffee machine. So, drinking out of Frank Rodriguez's coffee mugs. Will put a sign up soon.

#### 8. Pat Sheridan thanking staff because he is at camp now as a unit leader and seeing the program and facility from this new vantage point.

#### 9. Finances

- We have been very fortunate in donations along with grants in the past.
- Last year gave some funds to council for COVID issues.
- Try to steward financials that way.

#### 10. Each year scholarship committee to look at structure of scholarship. August 7<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> are staff take down days. Need volunteers and a couple knowledgeable people to know what goes where that would be useful. There will be numbers in staff.

#### 11. Scholarship [Peter Gati]

- A lot of people have taken advantage of it.
- Now taking a look at it with inflation and have not looked at it in 15 years or so. Looking at evaluation value of what the scholarship is.
- Maintain \$500 award in the first year. Hope over time the person grows as an individual and you grow in your contributions to camp which make you more valuable as a senior staff member.
- So, in accordance with that we proposed expanding value of the scholarship in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year by \$250. From \$500 to \$750 award in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- And if make it to year 4, in life of the scholarship we have 4 or 5 who have, about 20-25% of recipients got it all the way though. That year would be a \$1,000 reward.
- So, the proposal is to take the total scholarship from \$2,000 to, if you received it for all 4 years, to a \$3,000 reward for the 4-year scholarship.
- That brings us more in line with the competitive nature and the pricing of college and I'm not sure that we went far enough, but it is at least a start.

- And the other part of that, that we looked at was eligibility. What we have traditionally done is focus on those folks just starting their first year as applicants. But in the last few years our applicants have dropped off.
- So, we changed the wording a bit to allow applicants to apply no matter the year of college they are in. So, each year we will have a 4-year scholarship available.
- Also added more modern-day avenues regarding how the essay is done, it can now be done digitally, a video, written essay, audio, etc. This caters to multiple skill sets which we have in our staff at camp.
- This year's single returning recipient, David Fitzgerald, who is serving as Scout Craft Director. As we offer scholarships, we hope that they will move into leadership positions.
- We have 3 openings this year. We will try to look at this every year regarding the amount. \$3,000 annually in scholarship potentially.
- In any one annual year there will only be \$3,000 award total as a collective. Did we go far enough.

Robert Mendela "It's a good step."

Joe LeClair "have we asked the old recipients."

Joe Gannon: Yes, Arlo is working in Boston and we can't touch it.

Some discussion.

- More competition and more flexibility giving it out.
- David Fitzgerald and Arlo Hatcher introduced.
- Toughest job to decide who should be awarded the scholarship each year.

## 12. Big Joe's Jog [Pat Sheridan & Robert Mendela]

- Third year for the event.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Is a 5 K run/walk at Camp Mattatuck & can be done virtually too.
- Looking for T-shirt sponsors.
- Hoping to break 50 runners at camp and more virtually.
- Everyone will get a T-shirt.
- Noah came up with the T-shirt design this year.
- \$15 to participate.
- Share it on social media.
- Proceeds go to the scholarship for camp staff. It helps our staff exclusively.
- Have 10 volunteering and are looking for 5 more for that day.
- For High School runners should check with and potentially get coach's permission for outside run first from them.

## 13. Camp Mattatuck Gala

- Returning after a couple of year hiatus. It evolved out of the Mattatuck Diner that we had at camp for many years which was very focused on supporting the scholarship funding. The primary part of it is the scholarship.
- Last couple of years tried to see how much could bring in for other projects too, but the primary focus is on the scholarship especially if continue to increase the scholarship.
- The first four years per-COVID it brought in 10,000 to 15,000 to the volunteers each year.

- It is November 19<sup>th</sup> and includes a silent auction
- \$100 per ticket.
- On the website and social media. DJ is locked down.
- Noah has done a tone for this.
- We have a business card with URL on it.
- Soliciting for silent action and started an Amazon registry for it. Wine and Beer polls too.
- Can go out to solicit for the auction items.
- Allows people to help collective staff to be able to do more at camp. If you are involved with a Troop or Pack still you could buy a table as a unit, etc. If you know people who like to make things they can be auctioned off. If you want to use camp wood for it, just let Ranger Pat know, etc. Hand made items are a great auction item.

#### 14. Campmaster Program

- Several people asked about if it is being reinstated.
- Pat M., Jeromy and Pat S, have been talking about it with where things are with it.
- We don't have a full plan yet but several have asked and once we know we will share it.
- We know that several people enjoy it and it gives Pat M. some flexibility.

#### 15. Order of the Arrow [Brian Shannon]

- OA used to work with the Volunteers in the past.
- There are Camp Chiefs now where OA work with the Volunteers.
- Ours is John Platt for the Western District and he has an office at Camp Webster.
- Brian's plea is to have a youth/staff who is interested in a Camp Mattatuck OA Camp Chief for camp.
- It could help with getting youth to work with and alongside the Volunteers.
- Brian is the Chapter Chief for the District and there are 2 camps & 3 properties for that area.
- Could be you, or could be other staff members.
- Work weekends with OA alongside Volunteers would be useful to camp because currently missing an opportunity.
- The youth are the future. We (the volunteers) all started as OA members and then moved on into Volunteers.

Pat Sheridan: We, the Volunteers, are in need of folks to take on existing positions.

- None in positions are getting any younger.
- Succession planning is very much needed by younger generation.
- Encourage younger staff and OA members to join the volunteers, etc.
- Two Volunteer's meetings a year.
  - o January is hybrid now.
  - o Everyone is welcome at the meetings.
  - o We want to get youth input in meetings.
  - o Anything that is interesting to you
  - o Want to start something, have an idea, etc.
  - o Want the fresh look, the excitement, etc.
- Can attend the events that is great.
- Thanks for coming tonight.

Peter Gati: Another simple way to help is to share the posts that camp puts out.

- This allows more people to see what is happening at camp and potentially join in.

- This expands the viewership.
- Help support camp and then when they know about it, (ie. Jog, hikes, etc.) they may choose to help camp too.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenifer Watkins, Secretary