

Camp Nootseemung Properties Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2005

In Attendance

Stan Brown, Interim Chairman  
Michael Kelsey, Scribe  
Frank Sforza  
Jim Murphy  
Daryl Bucknor  
Bill Griffiths, Sr., Quartermaster  
Bill Griffiths, Jr.  
Jacob Toonkel  
Kurt Schollmeyer  
Ralph Heavner

OPENING at 6:59 p.m.

Quick Fund

Discussion and recommended projects for the Quick Fund ensued with a agreement that the Quick Fund money should be a fitting memorial that will create a visible change at the camp that will promote future donations. Project considered:

Patrol-Sized Cabin Model Campsite

Randy distributed a packet of papers including architectural designs, site plan, camp map and write-ups including estimates from Custom Forest Products and initial approval by Roger Lee the town-building inspector. He proposes build a site of patrol-sized cabins in the former Tuscorora site (at the end of the JLT field). The whole proposal calls for a campsite of ten patrol sized cabins, a pavilion and composting latrine, but one five cabins and the pavilion would be paid for by the Quick Fund monies. Troop 95 has raised the money for the sixth cabin. Funding for the remaining cabins and the composting latrine could be sought from council units and/or the Beech Mt. Fund.

Construction to be completed by Custom Forest Products can begin soon and be done by summer camp if approved this month. After construction we will need to stain the cabins within 6 months after construction (before winter). Was seen as a value to Cub Scout resident camp as well as weekend use.

Troop 95 has raised \$2,800 and counting for the cost of the proto-type cabin in memory of Frank McFarlin.

There is a latrine near Tuscorora with two seats so as to accommodate 30 campers. Six cabins sleeping four (24 campers) means a second latrine can be held off to the rest of the site is completed.

It was decided we should horseshoe the tent design.

### Entranceway

Also considered entranceway, but no design was presented. It was noted we would also need to clean up the brush along the entranceway including the sumac.

### Lake

Clarity of lake and vegetation will become issues at summer camp regarding approval of Board of Health. Was considered for use of Quick Fund but the price will be higher than the \$17,500 in the Quick Fund. What the lake needs for summer camp is a maintenance issue. Latest stumbling block on dredging permit is flow of silt into the lake. Eventual plan is to return the camp to the pre-1946 map of the camp.

### Latrines

In reviewing attendee wrap-ups from parents and leaders they do not like smelly latrines. Smell is a maintenance issue. Also wondered whether it would be a fitting memorial.

### Camper Showers

Also considered camper showers with the idea of major renovations along the lines of knocking it down and starting over as campers also complained about status of camper showers. Also the location of the changing area is not as close to the stalls. Additionally the camper showers were vandalized last year. Many improvements have been made to the camper showers in recent years: In 1996 a new roof, door, and privacy stalls were added. In 1998 a new septic tank, hot water heater stack and roof was added to the camper's showers. In 1995 five new shower stalls with cement block walls and floor were added to the Camper Showers.

Motion made and seconded to use the Quick Fund money for the entire proposal of building a model campsite of patrol-sized cabins and a pavilion and eventually a composting latrine as presented by Randy with five cabins and a pavilion in addition to the cabin funded for Troop 95 to come from the Quick Fund. The motion called for **Stan** to write up a letter and present the proposal to Ralph for board approval at the April board meeting alongside the written quote from Custom Forest Products. Motion passed. **Randy** will get the written quote from Custom Forest Products and send it to Stan.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS:**

### Tree Planting

Bill Sr. reported that three different sets of plants have been ordered including (from DEC and Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation).

A Cub pack has volunteered to start a nursery and then transplant them once the roots are established as part of three-year program with the cubs. Nursery will be set up between ranger's cabin and maintenance which can also serve to make a natural landscaping fence to hide the maintenance debris.

Two or three packs are coming to help with the planting on both Saturday and Sunday (April 30 and May 1).

Bill reported that the forester who visited the camp was very anxious about us attacking sumac growth before it gets worse. Suggested using roundout, brush cutters, clippers. Sumac removal **added to the May OA weekend projects**.

Frank said Underground New York is coming to mark underground wires by ranger's cabin so as to avoid digging by them when the nursery is set.

#### Woodcutting Days report

Randy reported that the woodcutting days were reasonably successful. Lots of trees were taken down – many were safety issues or near power lines. Campsites were loaded with firewood. Attendance was good for the first of these but we could have used more people. The committee agreed to host woodcutting days every March and every October. **Jim** will add them to the council calendar.

Jacob asked if the **OA** should participate in removing dead trees on their May ordeal? Yes, as long as the adults using the saws wear chaps.

Also noted that the white pines in Mohawk with tents underneath them pose problems as hazards and we should move the platforms from underneath the trees. This project was **added to the OA work project list for their May ordeal**.

#### Electrical (including AB Building)

Frank reported that he has started turning the power on in the AB. The building is rewired and light fixtures are up. Telephone wires will be done soon.

A new roof is needed soon as it is leaky and rotting. Looking at doing it in August as soon as camp ends. Considered metal roofing as we won't need to re-shingle.

Antennae on building used to be for CB and should probably come down as is no longer used. **Jim** will ask to see whether we can take it down as obsolete.

It was noted that the whole porch on the AB should be redone. This was not added to the schedule at this time as more pressing problems exist.

#### Spillway Bridge

Randy is still looking for I-Beams. As decided in the March meeting the spillway bridge will be torn down before camp in keeping with the national inspection team's wishes. Tearing down the existing bridge can be an **OA project on the May ordeal**. As decided in the March meeting the replacement bridge will not receive committee attention until the Fall.

#### Red Trail

Mike will be up soon to finish the third and fourth bridge, finish remarking the trail and build the first information kiosk. He is looking at Sunday, April 10 as a possible work day.

#### Flammables Shed

The camp received a donation of a shed to keep the flammables meeting a request put forward by the program committee in keeping with the requests of the national inspection team. The shed will need to be marked with appropriate signage alerting people not to smoke nearby.

### Orienteering Course

Kurt passed out a packet with a diagram and map of orienteering course prepared by Troop 31 including GPS. Jacob, a Scout from Troop 31, also mentioned the success his troop has had in using it. The packet was given to **Jim** to review and seek out council approval. The course is currently marked by temporary markers (e.g. rock piles). Troop 31 seeks to install permanent discs, reproduce copies of the course so that visiting units can use the orienteering course. Troop 31 has also mentioned creating a patch that can be purchased for completing the course.

### Ranger's Cabin Trimwork

Daryl reported that the Soppnets and Facia are coming Monday morning, April 10, 2005.

### Ranger's Cabin CO

Letter to council, and letter to building inspector has been sent by Spectra. Letter was sent for remedial plan for 2x6 collar ties and knee braces in every other bay, middle section and ends. Will need to take drywall out. **Daryl** will do the work, **Frank** will assist, **Bill Jr.** volunteered as well. Some of the needed wood is the wood stored in the pole barn donated by Lowes, the rest will need to be bought. Once the work is done, it gets inspected and then we get the CO. This project will be at the top of the list.

### Inventory

Bill Sr. is meeting with the camping program committee to determine their needs. He is taking care of inventorying the physical assets, and program people are taking care of inventorying consumable supplies including the dining hall. Inventory of assets will include condition of equipment and recommendations of what we will need to do to keep them in good shape. Bill will be coming to camp on 4/17 and every Sunday afterward to count and mark all belongings and create an index card recording system.

### Kiwanis Lodge

Mike K. reported that he met with the Poughkeepsie Chapter of Kiwanis and they will be readopting the Kiwanis Lodge, raising money and refurbishing it. Their current president was involved some 20-30 years ago when the Kiwanis Club last renovated the Kiwanis Lodge. Butch supplied estimates on various projects for them to undertake including new doors, windows, flooring and Mike has supplied the club with these estimates as well as 16 photos of the condition that the building is in. It is unclear at this time whether the Kiwanis Club will do the work themselves or have the Properties Committee perform the labor, most likely they will do the work themselves. **Mike** will follow up with this. Kiwanis is also interested in holding a breakfast meeting at the camp so as to tour the camp. Mike has been in touch with Pat Lenz with respect to this. The mission of Kiwanis Clubs is very compatible to Scouting in that it seeks to help children. The Kiwanis Lodge is interested in hanging their mission statement in the building bearing their name once the renovations are complete.

### Rifle Range Roofing/Trellis

Nothing to report.

### Rifle Range Safe

NRA donated a \$2,000 safe to the camp. Due to a mix-up in shipping Daisey Rifles knocked off more of the price of the rifles they are making available to Camp Nooteeming and Camp Bullowa and donated an additional 10 rifles so we are getting 60 rifles, 50 lbs of bbs, which the American Legion and NRA are splitting the cost. \$1,800 value. We have a surplus of \$900 from American Legion to use on rifles. Need to determine how this transaction will take place so as to coordinate timing and what role the HVC, Inc will have in this. Bill Jr. sketched out for Jim one possible scenario on how the transaction should take place.

Need an outlet in rifle range to heat safe and keep it away from wet wall. **Frank** will work on it.

### OA Work Projects

In addition to putting up tents OA projects will include demolishing the OA latrine and the Berkshire old latrine and wall; roughcut siding on Catskill lean-to; clean-out Kiwanis basement; getting rid of oil tank in ranger's cabin; collecting scrap metal along the pipeline; staining the waterfront latrine; painting the waterfront dock; removing sumac near the ranger's cabin; moving the tent platform underneath the white pine in Mohawk (note should do this before setting tents up); and tearing down the spillway bridge.

Mattresses will stay inside the pole barn until summer camp. Bill Sr. wants to be involved whenever equipment comes out.

### Roadwork

Randy announced that Todd Atkinson, an Eagle Scout, is a commander of Army Corp of Engineers who is willing to bring in teams to dredge the lake, roadwork, drainage, proposed parking area, or whatever we need him for. He will need four month planning time and so we should plan accordingly.

Randy said we need Item 4, and spoke with Dutchess Quarry in arranging an order of Item 4 for the camp that will include free trucking. The camp needs 65-68 tons. The committee considered using gravel instead but decided to go with Item 4 stone as Item 4 gives a better, smoother surface even though it will erode quicker. We have \$1000 in budget so the plan is to do the bottom of the camp, back road around lake, waterfront, dining hall and spot-hit the upper camp but \$1,000 is not a lot of stone to do the upper camp.

Need to make a cut-off on the main road above cistern before Berkshires as the water runs through the road and doesn't leave it.

### Alumni Association

Nothing to report.

### Composting Latrines

Kurt contacted Clear Lake and there found there is a maintenance cost with composting latrines to remove the sludge. Also need a septic, water line and liquid removal chamber. A further consideration is we would have to turn the water off in the winter meaning the pile just sits there until the spring when you can turn the water off.

Daryl reported that the Enviro Loo is \$3300 for a one-seater, which is what Randy would prefer to see as these are the models he has seen effectively used at DEC campsites.

Considered going to flush toilets as flush toilets would attract additional campers as it would please mothers, but these would need to be shut down during the winter. A four-season water heating system operating of Kiwanis basement is a recurring idea we need to revisit.

It was determined that we need both flush toilets and composting/enviro loos: a four season shower and toilets for the bottom of camp and composting latrines for the back side of camp.

### Benefactor List

Mike passed out a clipboard asking to compose a list of benefactors and volunteers who have been helping the camp to present them with certificates at a summer bbq at the camp.

### Review & Update Calendar

The committee chose the fourth Monday of the month for its regular meeting night which **Jim** will include in the council calendar according to this schedule: May, June, August, September, October, November, January, February, March, and April.

**Jim** will also add Tree Cutting Days to the council calendar in the months of March and October. Jim will pick the dates based upon available dates in the calendar.

### New Business:

#### Requirements to get ready for Summer Camp

Jim passed out papers from Donna containing the five most important issues that the program committee would like to see addressed before the start of camp. The list includes (1) lake clarity, red trail bridge, (2) walk-in freezer, ice machine, hot water heater, stoves, ovens, griddle, dishwasher, (3) camper showers, leaky water heater, (4) mowing, (5) overall aesthetics of the camp.

A new ice machine will cost a lot, the committee will look into renting an ice machine for the three week session of camp. **Bill Jr.** will look into the availability of renting one.

Jim brought copies of standards of camp for distribution. Any questions should be emailed to Jim.

### Weed-Wacking Day

It was suggested that we plan for “weed-wacking day” at camp for weed-wacking in June before summer camp. If no weed-wacking is needed volunteers can be given other work to do.

### Community judicial program

Daryl has a representative from corrections department coming to the camp to look around to see what projects a prison crew could work on.

### Community service hours

It was suggested we should look into establishing a mowing grass program with the local judge as source of labor. It was also noted that we should be careful with others using camp equipment regarding training and concern to plants and mowing surfaces.

### Maintenance Fence

Renewed the idea for a stockade fence around the maintenance area – will do with landscaping at first, but will look into permanent structure. **Bill Sr.** will get prices for a permanent stockade fence.

### Nooteeming News

Stan liked the idea of the committee newsletter initiated by Mike.

### Patrol-Sized Cabins

Randy is looking for equipment to post holes as it is unrealistic to hand-dig all the holes. He has scheduled a workday with Venturing Crew 95 for April 16 to site prep Tuscorora for the pending approval of the Patrol-Sized Cabin campsite.

### Surveying

Kurt reported that the surveyors have been having trouble keeping with the weekend schedule and as a result their respective employers Badey & Watson and Spectra have agreed to resume the complete surveying project at the camp and will volunteer surveying crews to do the boundary. This free labor will be completed as fill-in work as opportunities present themselves. Charney and Steve will do GPS in the meantime as well as continuing to work with the Scouts showing interest in surveying merit badge. The timeline is that the surveying work will run through the summer; it all depends on crew availability.

### Properties VP Comments

Ralph thanked Kurt for his work with surveying and Frank for electrical work and for helping Daryl out. Stated the purpose of committee is to manage the property, need to share ideas, but the purpose is maintenance. Concerned with past emails of committee members, and the anonymity of a memo floating around. He was pleased with the 45 minutes he observed the committee at the meeting and said he thought the committee was doing good stuff, but need to act like adults. Observed that the camp looks a lot better now than a few years ago because of the committee. Also thanked Daryl for exceeding expectations. The committee needs to keep its focus. He stated he did not think it is helpful to send out flyers, although there was dispute about whether flyers were actually sent out. Even so council would like to see flyers before being sent out. Communications with council was seen as key.

A 37-minute roundtable discussion including such topics as fundraising and securing donations ensued although these minutes do not reflect the specific points discussed as the Scribe's computer battery died.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2005**

Meeting ended at 10:43