

MEETING MINUTES
CAMP NOOTEEMING
December 5, 2004

In attendance

Butch Kidney
Stan Brown
Mike Kelsey
Randy Wacker
Daryl Bucknor
Bill Griffiths, Jr.
Frank Sforza
Branden Christensen
Brendan Gorman
Bill Griffiths, Sr.
Kurt Schollmeyer

Meeting began at 7:01 p.m.

Mission Statement

Mike distributed and the committee reviewed the council mission statement and ranger's responsibilities as supplied to the committee by the council board. Mike indicated, as these are the council mandates to the committee that all committee members should familiarize themselves with our responsibilities so as to more effectively adhere to them. An organizational chart for the committee and its place in the council was also distributed to those who missed the last meeting. Also distributed was a summary and status of current work projects in process. **Stan** volunteered to provide binders for everyone to organize their handouts.

Five Year Plan Approval

It was reviewed that at the Tri-Valley fireside chat on Monday, November 29, 2004 Scout Executive Eric Chamberlain said funding to the camp was held up by the lack of a five-year plan and once approved council monies from the Beach Mountain Fund would flow into Camp Nooteeming. Bill Sr. reported the committee currently has a five-year plan approved in 2002 and that it was provided at the annual regional inspection of the camp for which reports including the five year plan were sent to Scout Executive Eric Chamberlain and VP of Properties Ralph Heavner two years in a row as part of the regional inspection package. Randy Wacker confirmed the existence of the 2002 five-year plan as he wrote it.

Mike explained that Council President Bill Grogg mentioned in an email and at the Tri-Valley Fireside Chat that the council plans to undergo a study led by Ralph Heavner and others to determine its market and how best to design its facilities to serve such a market. Bill Jr. said that he felt the Nooteeming Properties Committee was the best place to develop a long-range plan for the camp to keep the camp from going in decline. It was noted that mission statement specifies the Nooteeming Properties Committee as

the proper body for developing and implementing the council property and maintenance program.

Mike reported Ralph Heavner's belief, articulated in a phone call, that it was premature to be presenting the committee's five-year plan and vision statement to the council board and that it wouldn't happen "this year." The committee as a whole expressed concerns and frustrations with this assessment and felt that it was a premature assessment without first looking over the vision statement and five-year plan. Mike reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Ralph to go over the committee's vision and five-year plan for the camp on 12/13. Bill Jr. and Daryl expressed interest in joining the meeting.

The committee then went line-by-line through the draft version of the five-year plan that was distributed at the November committee meeting. After a round of edits the Nooteming Properties Committee unanimously approved the five-year plan for 2005-2009.

Council Representation

Bill Jr. asked who and where the council liaison to the committee was. There was uncertainty about whether council liaison was Jim or Daryl. It was noted that Daryl had perfect attendance at meetings but that Jim had not been present since May or June.

Bill Sr. observed that the committee needs program representation on the committee.

Donations

Frank mentioned again his frustrations in not being able to secure donations from lumber stores as a letter from council on council letterhead was needed as previously noted in committee meeting minutes. The committee suggested that **Frank** write something up and ask council to print it on their letterhead and sign it giving him authorization to seek donations. Frank also reported progress on compiling a list of contractors and stores and asked for suggestions on lengthening the list. Frank noted that the larger the list the less likely we will hit up the same people for donations. The committee reviewed who had donated in the past so that we don't over ask for donations.

Firehouse

Mike shared a proposal made to the camp as a result of the Tri-Valley fireside chat. Advisors to nine fire-fighting Explorer Posts in Dutchess County who expressed having been neglected from council program and services have asked to build a firehouse at Camp Nooteming to garage a full-size fire engine owned by one of the posts. The plan calls for the proposed firehouse to also serve as a campmaster building with the firehouse staffed by one of the nine posts each weekend throughout the year with the Explorers utilizing the camp for training and being on call for medical emergencies, brush fire emergencies, parking when needed and periodic patrols of the premises. Each Explorer is certified in basic first aid, CPR, emergency medical technician, brushfire fighting, COPE and other certification and it was noted that such a presence may actually lower the camp's insurance rates. There was mention that the Explorers could one day serve as the nucleus of a future camp COPE program, an element included in the five-year plan. They expressed interest in helping with parking and medical emergencies at future Haunted

Harvest Fest as well. The campmaster program will free up the ranger for more physical pursuits.

The Explorers note that they will raise the money for the project through fundraising and grants including a Department of Agriculture grant and will provide all the manpower from the posts and their chartered representatives. The committee noted that they will need to raise the funding themselves for heating and water year-round. The proposed plan for the building will include separate sleeping accommodations for male and female Explorers, and during the week the building can be used for roundtables, training or other such council meeting needs. The committee unanimously approved this idea with the terms “win-win situation” and “gift” being used.

The committee considered possible locations with Kurt noting that we shouldn't give up current program areas in order to accommodate the firehouse. While discussing options the committee noted that we will need to find locations with adequate sewage needs first – so the first step is to explore areas for a septic system. Locations considered in random order were:

- 1) Corner of Davis Road and Scout Road. The committee noted that this may encounter objections from the municipality over zoning so close to a residential area, also since it would be development near the lake we would need DEC permits.
- 2) Area around archery field. The downside of this location is that it would need earthwork as its rocky, and trees will need to come down. It also presents a problem as it's behind the rifle range and could pose safety issues. Also there is also no water supply or sewage nearby.
- 3) Hilltop above dining hall. There is an old water supply well inside the fire tower and is centrally located making this is an optimal location. As it would take up space currently used for parking, the camp would need to implement it parking plans prior to construction.
- 4) Blow down area next to Mohawk. A disadvantage is that it is a steep hill would require a major road being built.
- 5) Cistern area up the road and across the street from Blodgett across the street. Downside is it would require road improvements for access.

The committee concluded that the next step in determining a location is to look into sewage access and then invite the Explorers to the camp (most who have never before been to the camp) and get their feedback on possible locations. Ultimately the decision comes down to where you can flush a toilet. Once the committee gets an idea of where, we will be able to report to council on the project.

The committee noted that it should be made clear to the Explorers that committee members will help, but this is there project and we will need a realistic timetable and show of community support prior to approval. It was also noted that this will serve a real need in delivering program and facilities to the Exploring program where previously they have expressed a lack. The committee also noted that most Cub Scouts plan firehouse visits into their annual program and that this would be a further draw for the camp. Firemanship and first aid merit badges opportunities were seen as immediate benefits to the Boy Scout program.

The committee named Bill Jr. to serve as project leader for this venture. The Explorers have a county meeting next Sunday and **Bill Jr.** will attend the meeting. Daryl suggested we ask them for a formal proposal.

Inventory of Assets

The committee considered the task of inventorying the camp's tools, equipment and tentage and named Bill Sr. as committee quartermaster to maintain an inventory list. Bill noted that Summer Camp Director Donna Toohey compiled a list of camp inventory for The Northeast Region and that this should serve as our starting point. **Mike** will contact Donna to acquire this list. **Daryl** will ask Jim if council has a copy and **Butch** will ask Jeremy Losee if he knows of a copy.

Maps

Kurt will be serving as project leader. Surveying the camp will begin in January with two surveyors donating their time. Three volunteers are needed to assist them on three half days; three people at the most. Troop 25 in Poughkeepsie expressed interest in providing the labor. The survey will be in a grid so that GPS use can be used at camp. This will give us boundaries. As for Topos we may use a 1954 5-foot topo map to apply our topo lines. The committee selected the following dates as possible surveying dates: January 8th or January 9th; January 16th; Sunday, January 23rd; January 29th; and February 12 or 13th. **Kurt** will clear these with the surveyors and then contact Troop 25 for volunteers. If additional volunteers are needed **Kurt** and **Mike** will seek out more volunteers.

Troop 25 asked if surveying merit badge can be offered as part of the service project. **Kurt** noted that the requirements just changed and he will look into whether this is possible as it may not be possible

Parking Lot

Kurt reviewed stormwater management plans. He concluded that if we are planning to clear-cut, and reseed it and use it as overflow parking lot we should get that plan validated through the town so that it will be formalized as a regulatory reoccurring use.

OA Involvement

Bill Sr. noting the absence of OA participation at the meeting asked about their involvement as when he chaired the committee they were sometimes adamant about being included. Mike reported that the current lodge chief, lodge advisor, past lodge advisor, Nooteming advisor, and four youth members are on the mailing list and express interest via emails from time to time. Wayne Mallen emailed a report for this meeting.

Budget

The upcoming budget was discussed and the committee reviewed needs and costs for the coming year's capital improvements. The committee noted it will also need to submit a budget for maintenance costs and **Bill Sr.** will be working with **Mike** on this. Bill reported that he submitted budgets in the past and that we went over on vehicular maintenance.

Electrical

Frank submitted a two-page electrical report outlining his projects for the year in the area of electrical improvements and maintenance and reported that he will be working with Mike Englishby from Central Hudson to improve the camp's electrical system.

Climbing Wall

Mike reported that he obtained a materials list for a climbing wall as built by Mt. Baker Council in Washington. Their council was able to have all the material donated and the committee looking over the list thought we could do the same. It was noted that Bullowa is also seeking a climbing wall and that perhaps we should compare notes. The Mt. Baker council noted an increase in camp usage and profits after building the climbing wall even with paying for a weekend COPE staff.

Chlorination

When considering future plans to create a manual for tending to the camp's well system it was noted that an existing map of waterlines already exists. The committee's five-year plan seeks to create a manual as well. Daryl said that in winterizing the well system that there were some problems with the lines. It was noted that camp really needs a blower – inline vacuum and we will add this to the budget.

Since last meeting the committee was contacted by the Board of Health regarding changes to New York State law. As a result we cannot use the winter well during the summer. We must shut off the winter well during summer camp and so long as we do so then we are compliant. Kurt asked to be included in future meetings like this one.

Kurt would like to convert the winter well into a yearlong well system by utilizing the Kiwanis basement. The idea is to use the Kiwanis basement as a place for storage of the transfer pumps and small storage tanks and then distribute to watermains at the lower end of camp. The problem with the upper camp is the layout for camp includes a rock ledge near the JLT field, Berkshires lean-tos and well. We are in a good position in the lower camp to take advantage of the Kiwanis basement so as to have four season facilities with running water like dining hall.

The board of health via Rich Robbins says must use chlorine as a disinfectant so there is a need for a large pressure tank. The five-year plans calls for us to have four-season treated water system in place by 2008.

Daryl was made projects leader of the well system.

Patrol sized cabins

The committee approved 2005 plans to implement a model campsite with ten new patrol-sized cabins with sleeping occupancy of four via built-in bunk beds, two pavilions and composting latrines. Butch volunteered to build five himself this summer if we get him the materials. The committee agreed to ask council for enough materials to do one whole campsite.

Randy was named project leader.

Alumni Association

Mike reported that the committee requested council approval of a Camp Nooteeing Alumni Association to outreach to Nooteeing alumni to increase support to Camp Nooteeing in labor and donations. Mike reported that many camps have these in place

and have borne much fruit. Eric Chamberlain is currently researching the structure for creating such a group in the Hudson Valley Council. The committee has provided Eric with bylaws and charter from other camp's alumni associations to use in designing Nooteeing's. The committee has asked that council approval be given in time to get this group off the ground by February 2005 to allow enough time to garner support in time for the camp's 80th anniversary in 2006.

Kurt reported that Stan Warywas has offered to write up some of the camp's history.

Inline skating rink

Randy reported that he is looking to see if batter boards that were available in Maine are still available.

Rangers Cabin

A workday was held at the camp last week and the backside and deck of the cabin was sanded, washed and bleached. The backside and ramp is presently ready for staining, the side needs to be pressure-washed and bleached. Daryl reported that the deck received a coat of stain today on account of the nice weather. **Mike and Frank** said they will be up to stain further as they have free time in the coming weeks. We still need to pressure wash and clean the other sides. **Daryl** will experiment with bleach washing in cold weather. The committee is committed to having the whole cabin washed and stained before 2004 is over but realizes it is all weather-dependent now as the stain requires warm days.

Daryl will serve as projects leader.

AB roof

Randy asked that when work commences on the AB roof that the people working on it possess the proper skills. The committee agreed.

Pioneering Staves

When cutting trees, Butch asked that we salvage staves for lashes and designate them in an area so Scouts don't use them as firewood.

Old Trading Post

The state of the trading post was considered particularly whether to remove the electric power. The reason this is asked is because the power lines will presently pose safety hazards when work commences on the AB roof. Frank needs to move the power line so that we can work on the roof as it poses an electrical violation. Question is should we get rid of the power in the old trading post? The committee considered underground conduits and expressed an interest in seeing the power continued in the trading post as even if the building is torn down in the near future as the structure is not sound we would seek to build another trading post there in the future, but deferred to Frank best professional judgment.

DEC permit to dredge lake

The committee does not know where this effort currently stands.

Daryl mentioned the possibility of putting algae eating carp in the lake as last year the algae problem was so bad that closing the waterfront was considered. The committee decided to put the cost of these grass-eating algae into the maintenance budget (\$500) and will also need to fix a hole in the dam to keep the carp from escaping downstream (additional \$500, also in the maintenance budget).

Changing corral

The committee will look towards constructing a Bullowa-style changing corral and will look into moving the present location.

Catskill lean-to

Wayne reported by email that Brad Jorrey was asked to resume construction on the half-completed fifth lean-to and responded that he would think about it. Judging this to be a non-answer the committee voted to reassign it to Butch Kidney who will now serve as project leader. **Butch** is planning a one-day workday in February to complete the lean-to and multiple committee members volunteered to pitch in.

Composting Latrines

Steve Murphy from Troop 82 has designs for the composting latrines used at Clear Lake Scout Reservation in Putnam County. The committee scheduled a field trip to Clear Lake on Saturday, January 29th trip to inspect their latrine.

Red Trail

Branden volunteered to build the three Red Trail Bridges and information kiosk sought in the 2005 budget over the summer 2005. The committee seeks to build the 40-foot bridge sooner. Branden will serve as Projects Leader for the Red Trail project.

Hats

Butch supplied quotes for properties committee hats and T-shirts. The committee decided to go ahead and order a dozen hats at \$5 a piece. The committee selected green hats with red lettering depicting the maple leaf, the symbol of the Cabala, the original Camp Nooteming service group.

Volunteer patch

Bill Sr. suggested we put in the budget for a patch to reward volunteers for service work for serving as a construction crew.

Guest Unit System

Bill Sr. suggested we start a guest unit system where we invite units to participate in our meetings on a monthly rotation to increase awareness of Camp Nooteming plans. **Mike** will ask Eric for unit leader information and develop a contact person for every council unit.

NRA Grant

Randy announced that the council was denied a \$5,000 grant for guns and a safe for improper paperwork. The grant form used was the 2003 form and so was rejected on a technicality. Randy noted that the form he dropped off at council already completed was a 2004 form and so is frustrated that a switch was done. Randy noted that last year a grant application was not filed by council suggesting a pattern of mismanagement that the committee feels need be addressed. Randy noted that awarding the grant should have been a shoo-in as the NRA was very impressed by the rifle aspects achieved by the Haunted Harvest Fest. The NRA also expressed dismay at not having their phone calls returned by council when they sought to clear up the problem with the incorrect form having been used. As a result the NRA asked Randy to serve as the official liaison between NRA and council.

American Legion

Randy reported that the American Legion is considering donating money for new guns.

Rental Cabin

Aaron Tuttle, Scoutmaster of Troop 37, is interested in renting a rental cabin and submitted a proposal for work in lieu of rent with what he spends on materials will be reduced from his rent. Aaron seeks to do the work now and move in April. As the cabin is vacant now, we will need to keep the heat on and the pipes running and from freezing up this winter. **Mike** needs to ask Ralph what council is doing towards renting the cabin as it's been vacant for some time and is a depreciation of an asset, and loss of revenue. The present condition of cabin is not rentable. Since we have someone interested in fixing it and then moving in April, the committee felt we should consider this offer. **Mike** needs to contact Ralph and see where we go from here, and what role are we to play. We need to know if Ralph will be writing the lease and what council wants us to do.

The other rental cabin is occupied by a man named Karl. The committee wondered if he was paying his rent and what his status was. The committee seeks clarification of who needs to collect rent. Who do we check to see if rent is being collected? A specific name like Eric or Jim is needed. **Mike** will inquire about this.

AB and Blodgett Chimneys

Based upon a recommendation from Wayne the committee decided the best course of action is to point the AB chimney with mortar, which is cheaper than hydraulic cement

The Blodgett chimney needs to be re-sleeved and the money was allotted in the budget for this purpose.

Meeting ended at 11:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 2, 2005. 7 p.m. Baden Powell Lodge.