

## Scout Collective 56 Committee Meeting

5/28/20 via Zoom

Present: Kathy Kelts, Gerry Katz, Jim Wheaton, Kate Scherlis, Michelle Holmes, Hitesh Trivedi, Sue Kriegsman, Lizbeth Green, Colin Zick, Andres Ballesteros

Order of the Arrow: Thanks to those who helped out with the first OA election Troop has had for a long time. The Scout from outside the Unit who conducted the election has forms for Troop to complete. All eligible Scouts were elected! Ordeals will be planned for future date due to COVID.

Summer: Camp not happening. Two fall weekends have been offered to troop in exchange for summer camp.

- Proposal to continue weekly meetings in summer to keep program going, with merit badge and advancement opportunities.
- Proposal for small group meet-ups with hikes rather than continuing meetings.
- Kayaking available on Charles River.
- Proposal for offering Personal Management merit badge, if counselor still available.
- Some thoughts that parents will be looking for ways for their Scouts to stay socially connected. Maybe weekly meetings could be the launchpad for some weekend day activities.
- Summer is blank slate for some Scouts.
- Some concern that weekly meetings will feel too much like regular year and feel like a constriction on family's flexibility in the summer. Also, weekly meetings big commitment for Scoutmasters.
- What is happening in summer for other organizations? Some summer camps holding camp and events in small groups. Michelle has been following camp & school requirements – very burdensome, so very few organized activities will happen. Sue: not enough guidelines out yet regarding summer camp and hard for camps to manage financially with smaller numbers, so many not operating.
- We recognize a variety of personal stances towards gathering because of varying health needs. Even on bike ride last weekend was difficult to maintain correct distance. Concern about leaving some Scouts out who opt out of activities. Question of how to be fully inclusive.
- Some thought that the structure of Scouts would support youth in an environment where most other activities are cancelled.
- Possibly schedule so that both Scoutmasters are not required at every meeting.
- Concern that attendance at meetings will decrease in summer. How has attendance been during COVID period? Attendance varies – about 7-8 up to 12 Scouts at every meeting. Core group has been meeting regularly.

- Lizbeth will ask Kavita to put question of summer meetings to Scouts at next Scout meeting – Scouts can decide. Kavita will put in agenda email.
- Proposal to use this group as a clearinghouse for activities available in summer – Scouting and other things. Parents looking for ways to maintain structure and socialization over summer.
- NYLT and Brownsea will not happen until fall. NYLT may happen in western MA in September. Liz will report back on that.

National Jamboree next year: 2021 at Summit, West Virginia – 2 weeks end of July. Registration happening now. Apply for camperships now – by 5/31. Michelle is running a sub-camp at Jamboree – thinks 2021 is aspirational and may be postponed until summer 2022.

- Michelle is recruiting adults to staff Jamboree.
- Can probably apply to Trust for some funding. We apply in fall and spring.
- Trust is asking us to involve other Cambridge troops since we are the only one applying for money.
- Families put money up front and wait to see if Trust reimburses. Cost= \$2400 for Scouts – bus trip, visited Washington DC, Hershey Park on way home. 9-10 days in West VA. Lots of walking involved. Site is huge!!
- Watch to be sure Philmont doesn't interfere so Scouts can go to both.

Advancement: Four Webelos coming into Troop. Proposal to target advancement for those below First Class, with First Class and higher Scouts teaching. Proposal to replicate curriculum of Brownsea program for new Scouts?

- Gerry has asked Scouts to get on Scoutbook. Process not user friendly, but still best way to keep track of Scouts' advancement since we are not seeing their spiralbound books any time soon.
- All Scouts should start adding info into Scoutbook now – takes a long time. Start now!
- Gerry will try to put together Scoutbook training videos and offer 1:1 work to get individual Scouts onto Scoutbook.
- Proposal for adult leaders to offer merit badges at different times of the day during summer when some Scouts will have more availability. Perhaps several merit badges at a time rather than one at a time as this Troop typically does?

Crossover ceremony for 4 Webelos. June 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>? Liz will check and report back. 18<sup>th</sup> preferred to avoid conflicts with Scouts' final exams.

Court of Honor: typically held in June, to celebrate Scout advancement. Virtual Court of Honor or socially distanced. Henry may hear back from National re Eagle, but family typically plans Eagle celebration. Jeffrey also getting close to Eagle.

- Some ideas for Court of Honor:

- Music, video, slideshow in virtual CofH? Something to make it fun and special.
- Carriage House parking lot for a social distanced gathering? Kate Scherlis may be able to provide cordless microphone.
- Date?? Perhaps matched with Crossover ceremony, possibly 6/18.
- Will have to order merit badges/advancement patches etc online and mail them to Scout homes.

Troop officer elections – mentioned in last Scout meeting. Terms beginning in September. First class Scouts need to start taking leadership positions for further advancement.

Recruiting – Council with some recruitment materials. Possibility of virtual recruitment event in summer. Jim will connect with Susan about this.

Service Opportunities: Clean-up work at public spaces needed because maintenance is limited, minimally staffed. But safe? Safe if members of household only in group. Enough distance possible? Working outdoors may be safer – fewer concerns about contamination of surfaces. Food drive again?

- Encourage Scouts to volunteer for Kavita’s service project, a virtual activity. Creating online learning modules. Will provide service hours for Star and Life advancement.

In lieu of summer camp: Council offering two weekends in fall – Sat am to Sun pm, earn 4 merit badges. Bring own tent. Sleep in individual tents. Patrol cooking, not dining hall. At NEBC. Also voucher for other activities.

- Have we already paid for summer? Deposit – approx. \$200.
- Could be applied to same week next summer or to the weekend programming as above
- Proposal for Troop to subsidize merit badge costs for individual Scouts because we have Trust money and spring semester dues that were hardly used. Motion made and passed.
- Submit receipts to Hitesh if you have signed your Scouts up for merit badge classes. Parents will have to put money up front and request reimbursement, which will be determined based on number of requests made.
- Inform Scouts at meeting that this funding is available for individual merit badge classes.
- Proposal to push money collected for spring dues to fall activities.
- Brainstorm as adults about what options are available for fall. Some trips from this spring could be postponed to next year.
- Should we plan for Sept, Oct, Nov? Maybe only local day hikes so that if site is too crowded or parking not available, we can readjust plans.