

**Camp Liberty Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nvq-bkxv-guz>
Or dial: (US) +1 385-645-7798 PIN: 207 567 088#

- I. Call to Order and Welcome to new Guests - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Guests attending were Terri Madden, Ed Madden, Kathy Sutherland, and Allene Smith.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll Call and Certification of Proper Notice and Quorum to conduct business- All board members were in attendance. Melinda Schwyn, CLI Executive Director, also participated. Proper notice was provided, and a quorum was present as required by the bylaws.
- IV. Legacy Land Conservancy – Allene Smith
Allene explained the two options that would be available to CLI. The first is a conservation easement/agreement. Under this scenario, the owner is compensated for giving up certain rights to the property. This agreement is held in trust indefinitely and there are no opt out or buy back options. The second option is an outright purchase of the land by the Conservancy at fair market value. Allene stressed that their federal funding sources are unstable at the present time. She would need three to six months upfront to research current possible funding sources. The board will discuss this idea in depth at the November meeting.
- V. Columns Fundraising – Wes Wicker
Wes introduced the board to Columns Fundraising and their process. They utilize a three-step approach. The first step is to research potential grants that match our mission. Step two is to develop a template for CLI that will include all of the typical grant requirements. Step three is to engage the grants. Wes stressed that they have very experienced grant writers on staff. The board will discuss this idea in depth at the November meeting.
- VI. Reading and approval of the September 2025 board meeting minutes - Larry made a motion to accept the September 2025 minutes as presented. Suzanne seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- VII. President's Report: Jeremy Briggs
Jeremy requested that the board review our 2025 Objectives and Calendar in preparation for our preliminary strategic planning session in November. He also requested that we meet in person in November to cover strategic planning, the Legacy Land Conservancy, and Columns Fundraising. A date of November 7th was selected for the November in person board meeting.
- VII. Vice President's Report: Jay Truchan
No report.
- VII. Treasurer's Report: Allan Lutes

Allan itemized the donations that were received since the September meeting. He also gave a final report on the pond project. YTD financials will be presented at the November meeting. We are tracking on budget, and Allan was able to move the shortfall money that we used previously back into Schwab.

IX. Director Report – Melinda Schwyn

Melinda provided a recap on the Fall Event. It was a great success and we had numerous very generous donors. We raised approximately \$24,611 in cash donations and \$22,500 in gifts in kind. Melinda updated the board that the plans for the Independence Hunt and the November Hunt are complete. She is currently looking into several grants and will report to the board in November.

X. Committee Reports

A. Community Relations – Kathy Sutherland

Kathy thanked everyone that helped make the 5K a success. The race was run very professionally and the publicity will further establish our presence in the community. She is still looking for volunteers for Trunk or Treat and asked that if anyone was willing, please let her know.

B. Maintenance and Repair – Ed Madden

Ed reported that the tractor needs an oil repair and that he will take care of that. He also let the board know that all of the blinds have been stocked with thermal blankets, whistles and first aid kits. Ed will be meeting with the hunters to review the safety rules and to ensure they have range time. He stated that everything is set for the upcoming hunts.

C. Conservation – Terri Madden

No report.

D. Fundraising Committee – Chaplain Bob

Chaplain Bob was not in attendance.

E. Hunting – Keith Zastrow

Keith was not in attendance.

XI. Old Business

A. New Logo – Rick perviously volunteered to work with a Brighton printer that developed the original CLI logo. Rick will provide an update at the November meeting.

B. Sale of second trailer – The motion to sell the trailer was previously approved. Ed will work to get it cleaned up and ready to sell.

C. Flagpole Request – Jay tabled this request.

D. Christmas Party – Discussion took place about partnering with Norvell Township on a Christmas Party. Further discussion and a decision will be made at the November meeting.

E. New Board Members – Tabled until the Strategic Planning session.

XII. New Business

A. Strategic Planning 2026

Covered under the President's Report.

B. Jay made a motion to have the Committee Reports submitted in advance of the board meetings with only questions and/or motions being handled during the meetings.

Suzanne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- XIII. Next Meeting & Event Dates
Fall Event & 5K – September 20th
Independence Disabled Veteran Hunt – October 16th-19th
Board of Directors – Friday, November 7th, 12:00 p.m. AT CAMP LIBERTY
Veterans Firearm Deer Hunt – November 19th-23rd
Veterans Pheasant Hunt – December 6th
Board of Directors – Wednesday, December 19th PROPOSED
Christmas Party – TBD
- XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

2025 Strategic Plan

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

1. Camp Liberty will continue to offer programs to serve our veterans, those with mobility challenges, and members of our surrounding communities. We will consider targeting programming to support additional target groups, such as local first responders, who may have interests and needs similar to those we currently serve.
2. Camp Liberty will improve our communications programs to connect with more veterans, community members, and others we can serve.
3. Camp Liberty will launch new efforts to recruit and recognize the volunteers and donors who support Camp Liberty.
4. Camp Liberty will seek out and engage additional volunteer leaders. This includes electing two to four additional members for our board of directors and two to four additional volunteers to actively engage in leading committees or events.
5. Camp Liberty will improve its fundraising efforts by implementing new programs resulting in at least \$150% of the amount raised in 2024. Efforts to find significant grants and funding for the purchase of the property by CLI will also be explored.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

6. Camp Liberty will complete the family fishing pond to include accessible fishing docks, aeration, water level control, structure for habitat, and stocking with fish.
7. Camp Liberty will work collaboratively with the River Raisin Watershed Council on a program, such as a river cleanup on the section of the river on the banks of Camp Liberty
8. Camp Liberty will Investigate opportunities to work with other agencies and groups that will allow Camp Liberty's Trackchairs to be better utilized by those with mobility challenges.

Camp Liberty Inc. 2025 Calendar

- February 22 – 2025 Kick Off and Volunteer Appreciation Event – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March 15 – Veterans Pheasant Hunt - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.
April 23-27 – Veterans Turkey Hunt - begins at 1:00 p.m. on April 23 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on April 27. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

May 17 - Spring Conservation Day – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

June 28 – Summer Picnic - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

August 9 – Fall Conservation Day – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

Sept 12 – 14 – Liberty Disabled Veterans and Youth Deer Hunt - -1:00 p.m. on Sept. 12 through 1:00 p.m.

on Sept. 14 at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

October 16 to 19 – Independence Disabled Veteran Hunt - begins at 1:00 p.m. on Oct 16 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 19. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

November 19 to 23 – Veterans Firearm Deer Season Hunt - - 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 19 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 23. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

December 6 – Veterans Pheasant Hunt - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty