

**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION COMMISSION
HOPATCONG BOROUGH HALL, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD, HOPATCONG, NJ
MARCH 27, 2025
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER: The Recreation Commission Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT: This meeting is held in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Recreation Commission Chairperson invites all present to salute the flag.

ROLL CALL: The Recording Secretary will call the roll.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Darrin DiNapoli, Cheryl Ostman, Wendy Sutton, Jacking Turkington, Ulla Vinkman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Jennifer Johnson, Recording Secretary Nancy McCormack

Chairperson Sutton stated that there are 2 bills that need to be voted on before the discussion of the Track Program.

Street Hockey

Jerseys were originally estimated for 70 kids at a total of \$2,400. Happily, there are now 110 kids registered resulting in an additional \$240 totaling \$2,640.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR STREET HOCKEY JERSEYS NOT TO EXCEED \$240:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion, Commissioner Ostman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Basketball

Final bill to the Hopatcong Board of Education is \$1,035 for the use of Durban Ave School due to conflict at the Hopatcong High School. Already approved at last meeting is \$630. Need to approve an additional \$405 for the last games.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR BASKETBALL GYM USAGE NOT TO EXCEED \$405:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion, Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Sutton spoke of the unfortunate and untimely passing of Dave Barnish sharing that before he became the Track and Field Coach, Dave Barnish was also involved with the Recreation

Commission as Chairperson and then as Trustee. She also stated that as hard as this is, we need to keep the Track and Field program going as it is a feeder program for the Hopatcong High School Track Team. Once approved, the program will be able to use the Recreation Commission vendors and will be under the same insurance umbrella as basketball and street hockey. As in previous years, Stanhope and Netcong kids will still be able to join.

Once voting is approved through the Recreation Commission, a copy will be sent to Council to be included on their agenda for the Wednesday April 2, 2025 meeting for approval. Registration will open on Thursday, April 3, 2025 through Sunday, April 6, 2025 and be available via the online portal and website. In-person registration will be available at the Senior Center 9:00am-4:30pm Thursday and Friday. Practices will be 6:00pm-7:30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Hopatcong High School track until mid-June. Chairperson Sutton will send out the registration to all basketball and street hockey families, as well.

Sharif Ramsey, who has been running the program for many years, will remain doing so, while the Superintendent of Recreation, Max Vasile, will handle the registration. Chairperson Sutton also stated that the Hopatcong High School coaches are willing to help after the HS track practices..

Chairperson Sutton said there had been a request from Athletic Director Peter Oesen on behalf of parents about planting a tree and a plaque for Coach Barnish at the high school track. If not possible, perhaps at Modick Park where cross-country practices. Councilwoman Johnson suggested that possibly naming the team after Coach Barnish. Chairperson Sutton will leave that up to Sharif Ramsey and suggested adding something to the jerseys. Gene Mizzoni suggested a Dave Barnish Invitational for next season. Monika Ramsey asked if there would be new flyers. Chairperson Sutton stated that Max Vasile is working on them and will be available on Thursday.

The Recreation Commission plans on joining the Lakeland Junior Track and Field League. Max Vasile will call their office and get the schedule. There is no fee for this year. The team will not be hosting a home meet this year.

Max Vasile will reach out to the company that was used last year for uniforms. A parent has offered to help pay for uniforms. If additional monies are needed, they will reach out to local businesses for donations. Will also need new coaches' shirts.

The Lakeland Junior Track and Field League supplies medals for all players. Chairperson Sutton suggest we do trophies. Sherif Ramsey stated that over the years they provided medals and trophies and the kids graduating out of the program would receive larger trophies. Max and Sherif will work on trophies and medals.

Chairperson Sutton let everyone know that all volunteers need to be background checked, which is paid for by the town and good for a year. She also asked if anyone coaching to stay to get your contact info. Max will send an email with the link for the volunteers to get the link for the background check.

Chairperson Sutton asked if the Recreation Commission had any questions. Commissioner Ostman asked how many kids register. Sharif Ramsey stated that they usually start out with about 30 kids but ends with around 25. Commissioner Ostman also asked the ages—9-10; 11-12; 13,14,15. The same for cross-country.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECREATION COMMISSION DEPARTMENT TO RUN THE TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAMS:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion, Commissioner Turkington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The registration fee last year was \$90. For just this year, the registration fee will be \$75 because insurance is already included for the year. The fee will go towards background checks, coaches' shirts and the end of season party for 20 people. The Recreation Commission will work with local businesses next year for donations.

MOTION TO APPROVE \$75 REGISTRATION FEE FOR THIS YEAR:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to approve. Commissioner Ostman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner DiNapoli asked if supplies were needed. Sharif Ramsey stated an equipment inventory needs to be done, but probably need shot puts and will speak to AD Oesen to see if they can borrow some of the high school equipment.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Commissioner Turkington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

Javier Machigua asked if additional money would be needed for the Fall cross-country, if the insurance would be good and if they would use the same uniforms. Sherif Ramsey stated there is an open store for parents, "Middlebury" and that most kids where the same shirts and buy sweatpants. Chairperson Suttons said it was not set up through the Recreation Commission.

Sharif Ramsey asked if parents still needed to include insurance information on the registration. Chairperson Sutton stated that the insurance provided by the Recreation Commission if a player gets injured and needs to go to the hospital and that the application does not ask for insurance information. Another parent asked if coaches also get insurance. Chairperson Sutton talked about the Rutgers Certified Lifetime Insurance policy for sport injuries or being sued. She will get the information to Sharif Ramsey to share with coaches. Looking into if someone is under 18 years of age if they can be Rutgers certified.

There will be separate registrations for cross-country in August. There will also be separate awards, party and trophies. Chairperson Sutton will check to see if there is a separate fee for registration. A parent also asked if there needed to be a minimum number of kids for cross-country because in the past it was 10 players due to insurance. Chairperson Sutton said it doesn't matter the number of kids with the Recreation Commission insurance.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

Commissioner Ostman made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Commissioner Turkington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next meeting: April 8th at 7:00pm in council chambers at town hall

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Submitted by
Nancy McCormack Boehm
Recording Secretary