

**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION COMMISSION
HOPATCONG BOROUGH HALL, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD, HOPATCONG, NJ
MARCH 17, 2025
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7PM**

CALL TO ORDER: The Recreation Commission Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Dave Barella, Darrin DiNapoli, Cheryl Ostman, Wendy Sutton, Jackie Turkington, Ulla Vinkman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Superintendent of Recreation Max Vasile, Councilwoman Jennifer Johnson, Councilman Joe Falconi, Recording Secretary Nancy McCormack

OPEN SPACE UPDATE: Liaison Dave Barella—Meeting March 20th or 25th, 2025

OUTER SPATIAL UPDATE: Liaison Dave Barella—No updates

CELEBRATIONS OF EVENTS UPDATE: Liaison Wendy Sutton—No updates

OLD BUSINESS:

Basketball

It was a great season and ended last Saturday. “Fun Week” where 8th grade players challenged coaches and played for 2 hours with a score of 95-52, coaches winning. There is a request that next year each team level play against the parents. The tournament took place Friday with 2 teams played against parents and siblings. Darren DiNapoli proudly said that his girls had an undefeated season and that the girls were awesome.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR FEBRUARY AND HALF OF MARCH TO PAY FOR REFEREES AND SCOREKEEPS NOT TO EXCEED \$4,418:

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

Easter Egg Hunt

Last Saturday volunteers came together and spent 3 ½ hours filling eggs with candy. Volunteers are needed on the day of the Easter Egg Hunt. Setup will begin at 9:00am. The Easter Bunny will be played by Cheryl Ostman with the help of Jackie Turkington and will be available for pictures between

12:00pm-2:00pm. There are 2 girls from the National Honor Society that will help. Scouts are willing to help but leaders must accompany them. However, there is a question as to whether or not the leaders will need to be background checked. Nancy McCormack and Chase Johnson will hand out water and snack packets.

Street Hockey

As of today, there are 82 players registered, and last year there were 77. 95% of registrations came from online, with only 6 in-person registrations. Registration will continue until Wednesday. Practice starts March 20th and games begin on April 1, 2025. Needles and Pins will be handling the jerseys at a cost of \$24 per shirt. If the order is placed by Monday, the jerseys will come in on time. There are 3 players that still need to register for a total of 86 players. A request has been made to order 7 extra jerseys, 1 for each team.

MOTION TO APPROVE MONIES FOR 100 STREET HOCKEY JERSEYS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400:

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

The discussion of charging other organizations a fee to use our fields was a concern. "Kick Soccer" uses our fields for 2 weeks in the summer. Councilwoman Johnson stated there was an ordinance already that we charge a fee, but it does not specify dollar amount. Superintendent Vasile replied that he has everything in a draft and will send to BA Snow for thoughts on fee schedule, revamp facility and field requests to make it easier to manage. Will be broken down into seasonal usage: July-September; October-November. The charge will be per season at a seasonal rate or for 2 weeks at a per-day rate. Chairperson Sutton reminded everyone that once voted tonight, it needs to go to council for approval. She also suggested creating a trust account for the fees and then used towards the fields. Commissioner Barella asked if there is financial stability if the fields are ruined. Commissioner DiNapoli stated that the groups would bring their insurance to play on the fields. Chairperson Sutton stated that the PBA Food Truck Festival is in September, but there was a lot of problems – garbage left on fields and the trucks on the fields. The schools won't let them use their fields. Commissioner Barella suggested there be a walk-through before and after any events. Commissioner Vinkman suggested the DPW be used instead since it's the center of town. Commissioner Turkington suggested the State Park. Chairperson Sutton will meet with PBA Contact Dominic Salimando.

MOTION TO APPROVE "KICK SOCCER" FIELD REQUEST AT VETS FIELD IN JULY AND AUGUST BUT WILL BE CHARGED A FEE WHEN THE FEES ARE APPROVED:

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

Field Walk:

Field walk will take place March 22 at 10:00. Need to open fields since there are 3 sports that will be using them soon starting at Naritcong and Vets for basketball and Vets and Squire for soccer. Along with the rink and skate park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open floor to Superintendent Vasile

Superintendent Vasile is the lead on town programs and stated that there several new programs for summer into fall 2025 including an adult walking program, adult men's basketball, tennis clinc (Fall), indoor yoga (Fall), photography program (Fall) and a Sussex County Minors game and a Devils game. He also stated that the Boys Scouts are rehabilitating the Bird Sanctuary. Commissioner DiNapoli suggested they find a way to set a time frame for Modick Park for adult basketball so the

kids are informed and that anything they can get the town together is good. Superintendent Vasile replied that they may get an actual permit. Councilman Falconi suggested a kids organized basketball group. Commissioner Ostman suggested Bingo and possibly Pickleball on the tennis courts but will need permission from the school. Chairperson Sutton reminded all that Bingo cannot be cash prizes, only gift cards.

Commissioner Vinkman asked about the survey. Superintendent Vasile stated it went well and will give it a few weeks. There were 250 responses. Additional surveys are available the Senior Center. He also stated that he looks forward to working with Street Hockey and that Basketball was very well run under the guidance of Chairperson Sutton.

Commissioner Vinkman mentioned that Jackie Turkington, Mayor Galate and John Young all participated in the Leap in the Lake.

Councilwoman Johnson asked about live streaming the meeting. Chairperson Sutton replied that there needs to be a new vote. Councilwoman Johnson suggested that Nancy McCormack be trained by Valerie Egan on the system.

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:

Barry Comeford mentioned that this meeting was not on the website or listed for today. He also stated that Street Hockey has ordered additional balls. He would like an inquiry report form. He also appreciates the extra jersey being ordered. Officially closing registration on Wednesday and half of the kids registered are brand new. Chairperson Sutton said she checked today and sent out one more push for registration and posted it on social media. Barry Comeford stated that rink is in good shape and the goals are out and that the chain-link fence is attached to boards and repairs were made. He also announced that the Hudson Farm Walk is May 10th, there is a boating safety course on May 17th, a clean-up at the dam on April 12 and that life jackets are mandatory from November 1 – May 1 for everyone including canoes, kayak and stand-up waterboards, unless you are in an enclosed cabin.

John Young stated that the Miss Hopatcong Pageant is independently run and was vacant for 10/12 years until the Recreation Commission took it over in 2006. In 2010 it became part of the Hopatcong Days. The Warriors took over Miss Hopatcong but no longer is involved so it is back to the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Turkington asked if there was a good turnout, where John Young replied that it varied year to year. The categories are: Mini Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss, Miss Hopatcong, Mini Mister and Little Mister. John will give all information to Superintendent Vasile. Councilwoman Johnson asked if there was a cash prize, yes for Miss Hopatcong. Mayor Galate stated that whoever wins will go on to represent Hopatcong at the County Fair. The deadline to submit winners to the Fair is August 2. Mayor Galate suggested Miss Hopatcong should be early in June or May. Superintendent Vasile will have more information for the next meeting. Commissioner Turkington suggested a scholarship instead of cash, but Mayor Galate said sometimes a junior will win and they won't need the scholarship yet.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

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

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2025:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Commissioner Ostman 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 8:15pm

Submitted by
Nancy McCormack Boehm
Recording Secretary