

**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
HOPATCONG BOROUGH HALL, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NJ  
APRIL 9, 2024  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Sutton 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:** Darrin DiNapoli, Cheryl Ostman, Wendy Sutton, Jacking Turkington, Kelly Gravatt, Ulla Vinkman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Recreation Liaison Roseanne Schult, Recording Secretary Nancy McCormack Boehm, Mayor Marie Galate

**OPEN SPACE UPDATE:** There are no updates.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Basketball:** No updates

**Street Hockey:** No updates

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Galate stated that we were one big community, but people felt we were very divided in town. Also announced that the Veteran's Cruise would be June 29, 2024.

Chairperson Sutton said that the town is usually given a schedule for the band for the full year and asked if the band was playing in the Memorial Day Parade or on the bridge for Veteran's Day, Mayor Galate did not know. Recreation Liaison Schult will look into it and let us know if they are coming.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Resident Comerford wanted to remind everyone of the Hudson Hike on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Also wanted to know the policy on permits to use the parks and to have music, specifically the skate park. For the reason that this past weekend between 1:00pm-6:00pm there were between 150-200 people with 20-30 tents, live band, and a lot of foul language and cars where driving on the skate park. Barry spoke with them, and they stopped for a short time but then started again.

Chairperson Sutton stated that the recreation approves usage for Vet's Field, Naritcong and Squire Fields and that town property goes through the Recreation Liaison. A facility request form is needed for the parks and Senior Center and none were approved.

Mayor Galate said she had no requests and if it happens again to either call her or the police.

Resident Comerford reported on street hockey saying that the younger kids have enough players for 2 teams and that the high school kids help coach and teach the younger ones. This Sunday they will be getting their jerseys and regular games for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade (B team) will be at 2:30 and 2 games for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade (A team) at 3:30 and 5:00. All information will be on the website.

Also, as a reminder, Resident Comerford stated life jackets still need to be worn until May 1<sup>st</sup> and also that there is a lot of floating debris.

Chairperson Sutton suggested that we bring in other sports, games, leagues such as volleyball teams for adults and asked what we needed to do to get started and maybe play other towns. Mayor Galate asked how the teams would work, for example, men's or women's, what facility and school facility requests. Chairperson Sutton said she would check out other town's recreation pages to see what they do.

Chairperson Sutton asked if anyone had any suggestions. Commission Gravatt stated that the Hawk's had an adult league.

Mayor Galate added that there is a grant for a Pickleball Court since people have been using the tennis courts and that it could be open for both children and adults. She also said that Hackettstown has a walking club and maybe try different ideas like a scavenger hunt and if it doesn't work, try something else. Mayor Galate noted that these are recreation commission events, but to have other people involved, for example, Warriors give out ice cream on movie night.

Chairperson Sutton inquired about insurance, and would the budget go through Recreation Commission or Celebrations? Mayor Galate responded saying all sports need to be covered by insurance and that Recreation Commission budget will be strictly for Recreation and all town events will be budgeted through Celebrations.

Mayor Galate reminded that the Summer Rec program was run through the Recreation Commission up until 2016. Recording Secretary McCormack Boehm stated that Alphabest has been running the Summer Camp program since then with much success, adding that it is an 8 week program and families pay only for the weeks they use the program.

Mayor Galate suggested that we do trips, which Chairperson Sutton liked and agreed to and added that we could use the Senior Center parking lot as a meeting place.

Recording Secretary McCormack Boehm suggested since the schools no longer have "Safety Town" for incoming kindergarten students, to bring "Safety Town" to all grades and focus on bike safety and street safety. Mayor Galate liked the idea.

Mayor Galate summarized by saying everything is out for rebranding and the purpose of all of this is to take away the minutia and be more involved with trips and other activities and that everyone should have some sort of role. Chairperson Sutton agreed and told the Recreation Commission that they had homework to come up with one new activity to suggest at the next meeting.

Mayor Galate noted the Block Party on May 18<sup>th</sup> and that the calendar had new events including Holiday/Halloween decorating contest.

Chairperson Sutton finished the meeting by making a motion for a vote to refund a family of \$50 for street hockey who is in only in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, since street hockey starts in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. All were in favor.

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 9th. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next meeting: May 14, 2024.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Commissioner Turkington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gravatt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted by  
Nancy McCormack Boehm  
Recording Secretary