

**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION COMMISSION**

**HOPATCONG BOROUGH HALL, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD**

**HOPATCONG, NJ**

**MARCH 12, 2024**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7PM**

---

**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 Interim Recording Secretary called the roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Dave Barella, Darrin DiNapoli, Cheryl Ostman, Wendy Sutton, Ulla Vinkman

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The Recreation Commission Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the following resolutions:

**1. Resolution #2024-05 – Appointment of Recording Secretary**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve Nancy McCormack Boehm as Recording Secretary, Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion

**ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella–yes, Darrin DiNapoli–yes, Cheryl Ostman–yes, Wendy Sutton–yes, Ulla Vinkman–yes

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Basketball:**

Basketball is ending March 22<sup>nd</sup>, with some teams having making games. There will be no more Saturday games. Mini tournaments will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week at the Middle School at 6:15. Monday and Tuesday will have 2 games and Wednesday will have 3 games, with pizza for the kids afterwards. Clinic and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade ending tomorrow with pizza right after. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will finish next Friday and will conclude with pizza. Had 15 kids in K-1 where they were introduced to basketball and learned how to play the game.

The issue with the parents from other districts is resolved and the games were better with everyone getting along. Will meet next year with coaches and other districts prior to the start of the season to review rules and conduct on and off the court.

Estimated cost for insurance for both basketball and street hockey, which is due April 1<sup>st</sup>, is quoted at \$1,462, last year was \$1,679. Cost went down because the number of participants went down. Estimations are: street hockey—80; basketball—125. Commissioner Barella asked if it could go up if more were to join. Chairperson Sutton stated all quotes were estimated high.

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve cost of insurance of \$1,462, Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella—yes, Darrin DiNapoli—yes, Cheryl Ostman—yes, Wendy Sutton—yes, Ulla Vinkman—yes

#### **Street Hockey:**

As of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 38 players have signed up—8 for clinic and 30 for “A” division. Sign ups are on Saturdays in person at the Senior Center. Will also have sign ups at the Easter Egg Hunt in Modick Park. Push to start March 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>. Opening day is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Sutton asked Resident Comerford if he knew why Needles & Pins were asked and charged to cut the sleeves on the Jerseys. Resident Comerford was under the impression that the kids cut them and not Needles & Pins. However, invoices show a charge for sleeve cutting. Chairperson Sutton was concerned that we are being charged \$23 for jerseys and then they are being cut. She also stated that she had done her due diligence and quoted another vendor that the town uses, and they came in less expensive. Chairperson Sutton left a message for Needles & Pins to discuss. Cost for jerseys: Needles & Pins—\$23; vendor #1—\$20.76 (4 colors); vendor #2—\$24.43 (5 colors). Commissioner Ostman questioned if the material of the jerseys was the same, the answer is no. Needles & Pins quality is better. Commissioner Barelli would prefer to keep the original vendor since its just approximately a \$2.25 difference in cost and if the kids want to cut their jerseys, that's okay, but we should not pay to cut the jerseys.

Chairperson Sutton stated that the DPW will put out the nets for street hockey. Resident Comerford said the rink was ready and just needed garbage cans and benches. He also stated that the chain link fence above the boards is coming lose and to put that in the report. Chairperson Sutton will address that and the weeds in the Field Walk Report. She inquired about the Eagle Scout Shed Project, Resident Comerford stated that is was still with the Boy Scout officials.

Chairperson Sutton needs a final teams list from Aldo Caprio so an order can be placed with the jersey colors needed.

Commissioner Barelli made a motion to approve to pay \$23 a jersey based on potential signup, approximately \$1,900, Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella—yes, Darrin DiNapoli—yes, Cheryl Ostman—yes, Wendy Sutton—yes, Ulla Vinkman—yes

#### **Easter Egg Hunt:**

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date of March 24<sup>th</sup> at Modick Park, between the hours of 12:00pm and 3:00pm. All eggs (10,000) have been stuffed with candy and are ready to be hidden which will begin at 9:00am. The Egg Hunt will begin at 12:15pm and last approximately 45 minutes. The Recreation Commission suggested age groups and area designation

as follows: 0-2—enclosed play area; 3-6—near the swings and surrounding area; 7 and older—Maxim Glen. Mayor Galate was concerned there weren't enough 0-2 for their own area and that 0-6 should be whole side area with 7 and older at Maxim Glen. Recreation Liaison Schult will announce rules and try to make it more organized. There will be a reserve of eggs for kids who were unable to find and collect eggs. If it rains both days, will pick an alternate day and will be called an "Egg Hunt". Chairperson Sutton asked Mayor Galate if the Easter Bunny could arrive on a fire truck, she was unsure and that they will meet on Thursday to discuss.

Resident Comerford was grateful but concerned that Boy Scouts were dropped off unsupervised to help stuff the eggs and that someone should be with them. Councilwoman Johnson's husband will be cooking hotdogs. Still 2 weeks and will reach out to everyone for help, including the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Mayor Galate said the majority of volunteers should come from the recreation commission.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Community Resource Night at HHS – Thursday, May 9th**

The Recreation Commission was asked to take part in "Community Resource Night" on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm–8:00pm at the Hopatcong High School Cafeteria. It's an informational-only night and they are asking for all organizations to participate to make our community aware of all we have to offer. Recreation Liaison Schult will make up flyers for the Recreation Commission. They will need volunteers to represent.

As a reminder, Valerie Egan has emailed Finance Disclosures to all town employees and volunteers. Everyone needs to complete it and if this is not done by the end of April, a fine will be incurred.

Recreation Liaison Schult would like to have an "Irish Ice Cream Bar" for the seniors on St. Patrick's Day during lunchtime along with corned beef and cabbage. It would consist of gallons of ice cream from True Vines, along with green toppings and the would be no more than cost \$100 and come from the Senior Fund.

Commissioner Barelli made a motion to approve and not to exceed \$150.00, Commissioner DiNapoli, seconded the motion.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella—yes, Darrin DiNapoli—yes, Cheryl Ostman—yes, Wendy Sutton—yes, Ulla Vinkman—yes

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Resident Comerford thanked Recreation Liaison Schult for helping the in-person registration for street hockey on Saturday.

He also addressed the concern regarding the Boy Scouts and reminded that all requests should go through the leaders and not the parents and they shouldn't be showing up without a leader.

Resident Comerford suggested that information be put in Hopatcong Happenings like last Fall ,regarding life jackets. If any vessel is less than 26 feet, including kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, etc., all persons must have a life jacket on because the water is still very cold.

He also stated that street hockey practice will begin next Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and games will begin April 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 practices if there are many new players and will try to balance teams. He hopes for enough kids for 2 teams. Chairperson Sutton said Durban Avenue School will send it out again through the Digital Backpack. Resident Comerford added that they will be picking up some kids from other towns.

#### **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Commissioner Barelli made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:**

Commission Ostman noted there was a mistake in the last minutes that showed Commissioner Ostman was present and voted in the last meeting. She in fact, was not present nor voted. These minutes will reflect that change.

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to approve to omit Cheryl Ostman was present and to approve the meeting minutes from February 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella—yes, Darrin DiNapoli—yes, Cheryl Ostman—yes, Wendy Sutton—yes, Ulla Vinkman—yes

Commission Barella inquired about the Field Report. Chairperson Sutton stated that on Squire Field the small gate was removed as suggested by the Hawks. The idea is that since there are 2 openings in the fence, people won't let their dogs in. They are also going to take down the old goal post that is rusted. Commissioner Barella does not think they should be removed and highly recommends keeping them. He does not want to continue to remove football-related items from the field and that they should be repaired. He continued to state that for years a list has been put together and things have been neglected and that Squire Field is the only football field left in town. Commissioner Barella requested that if they are removed, they need to be replaced. Chairperson Sutton stated that the original report asked to be repainted and that the Recreation Commission can only make a report and then it is submitted to the town, and they make the decisions.

Chairperson Sutton asked about the basketball court at Vet's Field. Commissioner Barella said it was a safety concern and either the pine trees need to come down or the courts be removed.

Commissioner Barella asked about the grants for the skate park and if we are still waiting on answers. Mayor Galate said there is a \$78,000 grant for the skate park and a new quote is needed. The grant from 2 years ago just came through. She is concerned that people like putting objects that are not approved in the skate park. We are waiting for the report from JIF.

Commissioner DiNapoli also suggested that the pegs on Naritong field should be sunk into the ground, to avoid anyone tripping. Mayor Galate said she was very concerned and suggested that JIF also be a part of the Field Walk.

Commissioner Barella inquired about the old shed at Vet's Field and if it was being replaced. Chairperson Sutton isn't sure, but it is a safety issue and is on the Field Walk report. The new one was put up about 10 years ago and the stuff in the old one needs to be removed and believes it belongs to the Hawks.

Commissioner DiNapoli verified the Field Walk for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and to begin at Vet's Field, then Naritong Field, Squire Field, hockey rink and skate park.

Next meeting: April 9, 2024 at 7:00pm

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Submitted by  
Nancy McCormack Boehm  
Recording Secretary