

**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD, HOPATCONG, NJ  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 7PM**

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**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, Ull Vinkman

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

**OPEN SPACE/OUTER SPATIAL UPDATE:** Superintendent Vasile and Liaison Barella are working together.

**CELEBRATIONS OF EVENTS UPDATE:** Liaison Wendy Sutton—None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Cross Country**

Chairperson Sutton stated that there are 10 players, including one player from Jefferson. In need of new uniform. Suggestion to charge out-of-town players \$100. Jefferson and Sparta Cross Country have around 50 participants. There is \$900 in the trust. Superintendent Vasile said there should be \$1,000; \$900 electronically and \$100 in person. The only expense for cross country is payable to the League. Commissioner DiNapoli asked if we needed to pay additional insurance with the answer being no, the coverage from Field and Track is still in effect.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AND NOT EXCEED \$600.00 FOR PAYMENT TO LAKELAND LEAGUE FOR CROSS COUNTRY:**

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

**Miners Game**

The game was entertaining and we filled 3 rows (14 seats per row).

### **Concert in the Park**

Superintendent Vasile was concerned about the low turnout, 25 people at most. Chairperson Sutton suggested that it be moved to a weekend because weekdays are tough for people to attend. Councilwoman Johnson suggested a Friday night. Superintendent Vasile also said he had other bands to and would send a link for review. Chairperson Sutton suggested bringing back the concert in the park and volleyball, the derby and Sunday softball all weekend with Hopatcong Days. Could also bring in Irish Dancing school, karate school.

### **Food Truck Festival**

PBA cancelled, reason unknown.

### **Field Request**

Kick Soccer requested use of Vet's Field for the months of July and August at a cost \$125 per month, paid upfront. However, due to low enrollment, Kick Soccer only used the field for July. Therefore, will need to reimburse them \$125 for nonuse in August.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE \$125.00 FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO "KICK SOCCER":**

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

### **New Jersey Devils**

Superintendent Vasile suggest 3 dates: January 17, March 3, March 29. March 3<sup>rd</sup> was chosen since the Hopatcong Marching Band will be playing that day. Cost is \$50 per person. Superintendent Vasile suggested to market it as a Christmas/Hanukkah gift.

### **Trust**

BA Snow, Superintendent Vasile and Chairperson Sutton have been working together to fix discrepancies regarding the trust account. BA Snow says that the senior money needs to be put back into the trust and take the senior nutrition program out of trust. Both the BA and CFO are working on issues to fix. There should \$13,000 back into the trust once resolved.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE \$355.92 FOR BJ RECEIPT FOR HOPATCONG DAYS:**

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

### **MOTION TO APPROVE \$108 FOR TRACK AND FIELD FINGERPRINTING FOR 4 COACHES:**

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion, Commissioner Turkington seconded the motion.  
Darrin DiNapoli, Cheryl Ostman, Wendy Sutton, Jacking Turkington and Ulla Vinkman were in favor.  
Dave Barrella abstained, stating it is a town requirement and not going to ask volunteers to pay, but doesn't agree that the Recreation Commission needs to pay it, the town should.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Basketball**

Chairperson Sutton suggested increasing the registration for the league from \$100 to \$125 and to leave clinic at \$50 based on the same number of players (110), therefore having an additional \$2,950 to help cover increasing insurance costs and gym usages fees. Commissioner Turkington suggested that clinic be increased to \$55 and league to \$120. Chairperson Sutton had concerns increasing the clinic and didn't want to lose players over \$5 and agreed to just increasing the league to \$120 for an

additional \$2,200 to help cover costs. Referee will stay at \$50 and Scorekeepers will stay at \$15 per game.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FEE INCREASE FOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL TO \$120 AND CLINIC BASKETBALL TO STAY AT \$50:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE PAY PER GAME; REFEREE \$50, SCOREKEEPER \$15 AND ASSIGNER \$5:**

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

**Bingo**

Supertindent Vasile, and Commissioners Vinkman and Ostman planned Bingo for September 26, from 7:00-9:00pm and the Hopatcong Senior Center. There will be 5 games planned with an additional 6<sup>th</sup> game being a full-card win. No cash or gift cards, just prizes.

**Proposed Recreation Commission dates for 2026:**

January 13  
February 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2026:**

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

**UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT VASILE**

**Current Events**

- 9/11 ceremony 6:00pm
- Sussex County Day, September 14
- Patriots Parade and Festival, September 27, 2:00-9:00
- Halloween in the Park, October 18: Parade 11:00-12:00, Festival 12:00-3:00
  - Chairperson Sutton suggested the parade route be from the gazebo at Maxim Glen and go around the path
  - Funtime blowups are confirmed
  - Fire and food permits are completed
  - Give out sugar pumpkins
  - Commissioner Barella stated that the costume contest takes up a lot of time and suggested the judges be on the parade route.

- Have an area for pictures
- Veteran's Day
- Tree Lighting and Pictures with Santa, at the firehouse, December 6
  - Arts and crafts
  - Hot chocolate, cookies, candy canes
  - 1:00-4:00 pictures, (1:00-2:00 pet pictures with Santa), 4:00-6:00 tree lighting
- Menorah Lighting, Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, sundown, 6:00pm.
- Facility improvements starting with Naritcong, new lights, reconstructing pitchers mound and batters pad, next Spring new clay and sand. Major field will get fixed and the minor field. Other fields need more money and time.

#### **OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

Barry Comerford informed the public of:

- 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lake Hopatcong Museum
- Power Boat Races
- The Byram Hudson Farm Hike is October 6
- The Lake Loop is October 5
- Free fishing day is October 18, and you don't need a license
- "Harmony in Motion", an acapella group is performing on September 28.

#### **MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM May 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:**

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

Next meeting: October 14th at 7:00pm in council chambers at town hall.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted by  
Nancy McCormack Boehm  
Recording Secretary

