

**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
HOPATCONG BOROUGH HALL, 111 RIVER STYX ROAD  
HOPATCONG, NJ  
NOVEMBER 13, 2024  
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 role.

**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, Councilwoman Jennifer Johnson

**OPEN SPACE UPDATE:** Liaison Dave Barella—There are no updates.

**CELEBRATIONS OF EVENTS UPDATE:** Liaison Wendy Sutton—There are no updates because the committee no longer exists.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Halloween Costume Contest:**

Event went very well, there was a good turnout. Commission Barella suggested changing the costume contest so it doesn't interfere with the rest of event, example is we can't enjoy the music if the DJ is announcing the contest. He also suggested changing the parade route to begin at the park since parade participants needed to move their cars from Hudson Maxim after the parade and that people are missing an hour of the vendors. Mayor Galate spoke up and said the route will be changed and will start at the firehouse next year. Chairperson Sutton expressed that people didn't know where to go for the parade and also people were told nothing could be open until the parade was over. Councilwoman Johnson suggested changing the hours: 11:00 vendors; 12:00 parade; 12:30 costume contest. Chairperson Sutton said all of this would be discussed and on the agenda when planning during the summer.

Chairperson Sutton announced that all recreation events are back to the Recreation Commission including the "Tree Lighting", "Menorah Lighting" and "Santa in the Park". January will begin planning "Easter Egg Hunt". Shelby Snow, the new Borough Administrator, told Wendy to move ahead using trust monies and the recreation commission will be given a budget for next year.

**MOTION TO GIVE OUT GIFT CARDS AS COSTUME PRIZES:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve not to exceed \$420. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Dave Barella—yes, Darrin DiNapoli—yes, Cherly Ostman—yes, Wendy Sutton—yes, Kelly Gravatt—yes, Ulla Vinkman—yes

**Field Walk:**

Sunday November 17th at 10:00am, Commissioners Ostman, Councilwoman Johnson and Chairperson Sutton will meet at Vets Field to begin. Fields are no longer being used, all programs are done. Councilwoman Johnson asked if one would be done in the Fall. Chairperson Sutton replied yes and if it's a warm winter DPW can fix the fields. She will email everyone the last field report with Pat Mason and asked Councilwoman Johnson to ask someone to do something with Jefferson Field. Councilwoman Johnson stated that is "Green Acres". Commissioner DiNapoli asked if something could be done like "Landing Park".

**Trips:**

No Updates

Chairperson Sutton requested next year Commissioners Vinkman and Ostman to focus on Bingo. Both agreed.

**Basketball:**

Chairperson Sutton stated that we are not allowed to "Nixle" basketball announcements. She also stated that basketball numbers are low, before November 6<sup>th</sup> only had 75 participants. Recreation Liaison Schult will email Chairperson Sutton the final numbers on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Unable to vote on uniforms since we don't have final numbers. Chairperson Sutton, Commissioner DiNapoli and Joe Falconi will be meeting tomorrow November 14<sup>th</sup> regarding scheduling. Practice starts Monday. Commissioner Barella suggested we vote based on numbers from last year. Chairperson Sutton replied that if we stay under \$3,000 we won't need 3 quotes and will continue to use the same person from last year since she has the logos and sponsors. Total for 127 players would cost \$3,500. Will be broken down into 3 separate orders:

**MOTION TO APPROVE CLINIC T-SHIRTS:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve and not exceed \$500. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE COACHES SHIRTS:**

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to approve and not exceed \$250. Commissioner Barella seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE UNIFORMS:**

Commissioner Ostman made a motion to approve and not exceed \$3,000. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE SCOREBOOKS AND ICEPACKS:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve and not exceed \$600. Commissioner Ostman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Coaches are using “game day balls” during practice. Commissioner DiNapoli suggested buying 1 ball a year. It was suggested that the fee for Referees be reduced to \$50 per game, as most towns are under \$50.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FEE FOR REFEREES AND SCOREKEEPS:**

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to approve \$50 per referee per game and \$15 per scorekeeper per game. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE REFUNDING FAMILY FOR OVERPAYMENT:**

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to approve \$100. Commissioner Ostman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Chairperson Sutton reiterated, as per BA Snow, all coaches and volunteers need to be background checked. Lenape sent Chairperson Sutton background check information that cost \$299 for unlimited number of people and since we don’t need to pay for gym usage, we should pay for coaches background check. Approximately 20-30 coaches across all programs including basketball, soccer, little league and street hockey.

**MOTION TO APPROVE BACKGROUND CHECK:**

Commissioner Ostman made a motion to approve and not exceed \$500 for any program for background checks. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Chairperson Sutton spoke with Jon Young to combine with Warriors for “million-dollar lifetime insurance certificate” from Rutgers. The cost is \$35 per person, 3 hours on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00pm for coaches and assistant coaches.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RUTGERS TRAINING :**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve \$35 per coach/assistant coach. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:****Tree Lighting**

December 1, 2024, town hall at 6:30. High School Ensemble, Girl Scouts singing Christmas Carols, Santa on Firetruck outside. Joe Tree will decorate tree with lights. Hot Chocolate and cookies inside the borough hall and the money in the trust will be used.

**MOTION TO APPROVE HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve and not exceed \$300 for cookies and hot chocolate. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Menorah Lighting:**

December 26, 2024, 6:00pm at sundown at town hall. Rabbi will say a prayer outside. Hot chocolate and donuts inside at the borough hall. We will hand out dreidels.

**MOTION TO APPROVE NEW MENORAH LIGHTING:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve and not exceed \$300 for menorah lighting for hot chocolate, donuts and dreidels. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Santa in the Park:**

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12:00-3:00pm, rain date Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. The shed will be used for “pictures with Santa”. Last year handed out goody-bags, this year will give small toy. Will once again, have ornaments with child’s name. Will have hot chocolate and cookies. Will have inflatables on basketball court for children to enjoy while waiting to see Santa. Chairperson Sutton reiterated that BA Snow has approved funds for event including inflatables. We will coordinate with the Market Place vendors. Councilwoman Johnson asked about space and the cold weather concerning the inflatables. Chairperson Sutton said it was very cold on Halloween and the inflatables were fine.

**MOTION TO APPROVE SANTA IN THE PARK:**

Commissioner Barella made a motion to approve and not exceed \$2,100 for ornaments (\$650), toys (\$700), DJ (\$250), hot chocolate and cookies (\$500). Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Chairperson Sutton said the inflatables give the kids something to do while waiting in line for Santa, otherwise it could just be boring for them. Maybe invest in a “party box”. Need 2 inflatables, one igloo with snowman \$850 and one gingerbread house \$750, fully staffed and not charged for their staff and they have their own insurance.

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2 INFLATABLES FOR SANTA IN THE PARK:**

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to approve and not exceed \$1,525. Commissioner Vinkman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Councilwoman Johnson asked Chairperson Sutton if she received an email from BA Snow that the money can be spent on these events. Chairperson Sutton stated that BA Snow said there was money in the trust that we can use. BA Snow will send out budget reports on the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month to Chairperson Sutton. Councilwoman Johnson stated that the only time to transfer money is November through December 31<sup>st</sup>. The commission has to vote to move money out of the trust. Trusts have strict rules. Fee-based programs go into the trust and use of those funds need to be voted by the commission.

**MOTION TO APPROVE MOVE MONEY FROM ACCOUNTS:**

Commissioner Vinkman made a motion to approve and not exceed \$100 from Hopatcong Days account for town events. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Ostman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 10th. Commissioner DiNapoli seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next meeting: December 10, 2024 at 7:00pm

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Submitted by  
Nancy McCormack Boehm  
Recording Secretary