

**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION COMMISSION
SENIOR CENTER, LOWER LEVEL, 32 LAKESIDE BLVD, HOPATCONG, NJ
JULY 8, 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

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

OPEN SPACE UPDATE:

Liaison Dave Barella stated that the use of the fields just can't be about soccer and that the Warriors used to practice at Squire and Naritcong. Chairperson Sutton suggested that soccer and little league presidents need to be involved. Councilman Falconi respectfully disagreed with too many meetings. Councilwoman Johnson thought meetings for just input would be okay, Commissioner Barella agreed. Councilman Falconi stated that many towns use bigger fields for T-ball. Chairperson Sutton asked what happens when all the fields are being used, T-ball can't take place. Commissioner DiNapoli suggested a Farm field and T-ball field. Superintendent Vasile suggested this conversation could happen at a later date since nothing is happening on the fields until 2026, possibly 2025 late Fall/Winter. Commissioner Barella stated that the high school has closed their soccer field and will now be using Vet's Field. Superintendent Vasile asked if will effect mens HS soccer team and need to talk about who gets rank of the field to play since Hawks have Spring/Fall priority at Vets Field and that the school will have to apply to use the field. Chairperson Sutton said that we need to fit in the schools especially JV and that they have only as to use the field in the Spring. Darryl would like to se the major fields brought back to where they should be with a pitcher mound and bull pen. Superintendent Vasile was in agreement. Chairperson Sutton added that when Field Walks are done in March and November and reports filled out, nothing every gets done. Superintendent Vasile we need a Parks and Rec Division and do 1 field a year.

OUTER SPATIAL UPDATE: Liaison Dave Barella— No updates

CELEBRATIONS OF EVENTS UPDATE: Liaison Wendy Sutton—None

OLD BUSINESS:

Street Hockey

Vipers won therefore putting Patrick Comeford into the Hall of Fame. Superintendent Vasile was impressed and said it was well run, but suggested readjusting the age groups to 2-4, 5-8 and 0-12 due to physical size and not ability, but keep them co-ed.

Commissioner Ostman stated that the NJ Devils gave Jefferson money to improve their rink. Superintendent Vasile will reach out to the director in Jefferson to find out who at the NJ Devils can help donate or sponsor the Hopatcong field/rink

Track and Field

It was a good transition with Vanessa stepping up and Sharif taking control. Looking forward to X-country. All agreed that the Lakeland League was great, and the pizza party was a success.

MOTION TO APPROVE \$200.00 FOR NEW RECEIPT FROM THE GROTTTO:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Cross-Country

The cost to join the Lakeland League for Cross-country is \$1,175, there is \$60 left in account. Registration will start at \$75, uniforms are the same from Field and Track, there will be additional referee fees, and there are no home meets. Councilwoman Johnson spoke up and said the fee has always been \$90.

Commissioner Barella sent an email to everyone asking them to review the last 2 pages and send back with recommendations. Modick Park has porto-johns and it makes the town look bad. We need real bathrooms or a block wall around the porto-johns to make it look better. Councilwoman Johnson stated that a boys/girls/handicap bathroom would run approximately \$280,000. Commissioner Barella feels that Vet's Field should also have bathrooms. He also stated that the goal posts are still up at Squire Field and that Nariticong needs everything new and there needs to be a place in town to house all sporting equipment. Superintendent Vasile that Nariticong will be refenced, resodded, have a single field in year 1 and will go out for quotes. Commissioner Barella was concerned the only 1 field and not the complex would be done and how the space could be optimized. Superintendent Vasile replied, by eliminating the T-ball field. Everyone agreed that the T-ball field needs to stay and not be eliminated, whereas Superintendent Vasile stated that they could use the major field or make a multipurpose field. Commissioner Barella would like the T-ball field at Squire. Could have sponsorships from town, say we need a minimum number and put it out to the public for help.

TRACK and FIELD

Sparta and Jefferson inquired about Track and Field with Hopatcong. Cross-country is big in Jefferson and Sparta and we may be able to work with them and then have them come to Hopatcong for Track and Field.

MOTION TO APPROVE \$100.00 REGITRASTION FOR CROSS-COUNTRY:

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

The Eagle Scout bus shelter and all Eagle Scout projects, who maintains them once the Scout has earned the rank of Eagle Scout? Commissioner DiNapoli asked why the DPW couldn't put stain on it. Commissioner Turkington suggested that the town should ask who will maintain any long term sustainable projects before approving.

Chairperson Sutton inquired about the Food Truck Festival. Superintendent Vasile will reach out to the PBA and Officer Stearn for their input.

Chairperson Sutton stated that BA Snow asked to discuss invoice of soccer field; repairing the holes at the nets, wanting to remove goals, where Superintendent Vasile replied that it was in fact ours to pay. He also stated that soccer should not be doing any work on the fields and that bids need to go out. Chairperson Suttons stated that BA Snow wants everything in consensus, however, not everyone agrees with vendor pricings.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about Bingo, extended hours at the Wellness Center, Sundae Funday and that we should ask for donations from ice cream shops and Family Fun Night. Superintendent Vasile will speak to BA Snow about Wellness Center.

Summer Recreation Camp – would need to rent a building, need space and AlphaBest already has a contract with pricing that the town could not match. Superintendent Vasile suggested offering a 2-hour camp – 9-12.

Adult Summer Outdoor Basketball - \$50 per person 6:00-7:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm, with a jersey. There would be 2 games a night using 1 court, 5 or 6 games total or 4 games and playoff and championship.

MOTION TO APPROVE \$500.00 PER ADULT OUTDOOR BASKETBALL TEAM FOR AUGUST:

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

Art Program – beginner art class; 1 hour a day August 4 and 6 and the Senior Center Upstairs for 3–6-year-old. Need to have a minimum to run class. \$60 registration for both classes.

MOTION TO APPROVE \$60.00 REGITRASTION FOR BOTH SESSIONS OF CHILDREN ART CLASS:

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

Line dancing with Kim Asmar, Traveling Line Dancing Instructor at a cost of \$15 per night, every Tuesday in October. – Not voting on this tonight.

UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT VASILE

Current Events

- Hopatcong Days, July 12, 2025, 11:00pm-3:00pm, face painting, pony rides, ballons, “FunTime” blow-ups, hot dogs.
- Sussex Minor, August 16, 7:00pm \$14, fireworks.
- Bingo Night, Friday September 26 7:00pm-9:00pm
- Summer Concerts; July 25 and August 26 – 6:30-8:00pm
- Music and Line Dancing, 4 sessions at a cost of \$60 – Superintendent Vasile will create a flyer

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

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

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM May 13TH MEETING:

Commissioner DiNapoli made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ostman seconded the motion. All were in favor, except Commissioner Turkington and Commissioner Barella who abstained.

Next meeting: August 12th at 7:00pm in council chambers at town hall.

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 9:20pm

Submitted by
Nancy McCormack Boehm
Recording Secretary