BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes

Minutes for September 22, 2025, at 7:30 PM via Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on September 22, 2025, at 7:30 PM via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was presided over by David Keyt, with Heather Hornyak serving as secretary.

2. Attendance

- Voting Members: Heather Hornyak, Shaun Lehrer, Ilaxi Rana, Derek Jackson, Rob Wianecki
- Non-voting Members: Laurie Stepper (Recreation Director), Angela Tsai (Council Liaison), Arian Nanda (junior member)
- Members not in attendance: James Aitken, Julia McVeigh, Mark Odenwelder
- Guests in attendance: none

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on August 19, 2025, were approved.

4. Recreation Director's Report (Laurie Stepper)

- **Program and Event Updates**
  - **Scout Projects:** The department is actively supporting **two Eagle Scout candidates** with their projects and anticipates working with a third candidate soon.
  - **Summer Concert Series:** The series concluded with **three well-attended events** in August: The Long Hill String Band (approx. 50 attendees), Sunset Strings at Island Beach (approx. 50 attendees and over 20 young performers), and The Tourne (over 120 attendees).
  - **Fall and Winter Events:** Planning is underway for several upcoming events, including a planned **expansion of Fall Fest** to include interactive activities hosted by other Mountain Lakes Committees and Commissions. Other key upcoming dates include **Movie Night** (Oct 10), Fall Fest (Oct 12), and various **holiday decorating contests** and events in December (Gingerbread Wonderland, Tree Lighting, Menorah Lighting).
- **Youth Sports**
  - **Jr. Laker Cross Country** opened its season with 26 registered participants as of September 9th.
  - **Jr. Laker Wrestling** is planning the 2025-2026 season, and a new website has been launched to drive interest.
  - Discussions have been initiated with coordinators to potentially bring back the **Jr. Laker Volleyball program** due to strong interest.

- **Facility and Operations Notes**
  - **Racks and Stand-Up Paddle Boards (SUP):** An evaluation of boat and SUP racks showed significant vacancies as of August 19th at both Midvale Boat Dock (25 boat racks and 14 SUP racks empty) and Island Beach (14 boat racks and 3 SUP racks empty).
  - **Ongoing Tasks:** Regular operational duties continue, including managing **facility requests**, overseeing **sports program support**, creating the **weekly eblast and social media content**, updating the **Borough website and electronic sign**, processing payroll, and managing **rack/ring requests** and various reports.

5. Meetings and Future Planning

- **Meetings:** The director attended regularly scheduled monthly meetings for the Recreation Commission, HUB Lakes, DPW Subcommittee, NJRPA District 7, and Safety Committee meeting.
- **Tentative 2026 Events:** Preliminary planning has begun for a Polar Plunge (Jan/Feb), an astronomy event (March), and the annual Egg Hunt (March).

6. Announcements

- Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.