

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for November 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on February 16, 2024 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson David Keyt, with Derek Jackson as secretary.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: James Aitken, Heather Hornyak, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Mark Odenwelder, Tish Scarola, Rob Wianecki

Non-voting Members in attendance: Laurie Stepper (Recreation Director), Melissa Muilenburg (Council Liaison)

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Phyllis Deering, Sara Forman (Board of Education Liaison)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on October 15, 2024 was made by David Keyt and seconded by Derek Jackson.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was prepared and presented by Laurie Stepper.

- Halloween Porch/Door Decorating Contest – 11 entries; 3 winners were announced on Oct 30. Each winner received a lawn sign and \$50 gift card to a local restaurant.
 - 2 Scarborough Rd
 - 33 Laurel Hill Rd
 - 52 Briarcliff Rd
- Laker 55+ Club MacCulloch Hall and Morristown Tour on Nov 2 had 10 people attend. More events planned for November (see below in Upcoming Events). Encouraging people to attend the existing ML Public Library programs, and will diversify the offerings with trips.
- Briarcliff Middle School and Mountain Lakes High School Ski Club Parent Meeting was held on Wed, Oct 30 at MLHS Cafeteria and registration opened after the meeting. As of Nov 12, there were 70 middle school students, and 23 high school students registered. Deadline to register is Nov 14. Registration is lower than anticipated for both clubs, especially the HS club due to feedback of wanting the club to return.
- Tennis Court lights and timer were upgraded.
- Gingerbread Wonderland event and entry details were advertised. As of Nov 12, we have 2 entries. Call to action to submit a gingerbread display went to Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, PBA, Fire Department, Facebook, Instagram, Borough Blast, Virtual Backpack, Laker 55+ Club members, and Borough Website. The Mountain Lakes Library will be including the event in their newsletter and fliers have been put out on their info table.

Upcoming Events

- Thurs, Nov 14 – Laker 55+ Trivia Night at Fort Nonsense Brewing Company
- Sat, Nov 16 – Laker 55+ Brooklyn Bridge and Lower Manhattan Tour
- December – Holiday Porch/Door Decorating Contest
- Fri-Sun, Dec 6-8 - Gingerbread Wonderland at Mountain Lakes Library
- Sun, Dec 8 – Tree Lighting 5pm at Kaufmann Park
- Sun, Dec 29 – Menorah Lighting 5pm at Kaufmann Park

Monthly Meetings

- Recreation Commission
- HUB Lakes
- DPW Subcommittee
- NJRPA District 7

Ongoing tasks

- Manage facility requests from residents and organizations.
- Oversee and support sports programs with school facility requests and supply purchases, if needed.
- Weekly eblast.
- Social Media posts.
- Update the Borough website.
- Borough Hall electronic sign.
- Manage Borough Hall room reservation calendar for conference rooms and Chambers.
- Submit payroll 2x per month.
- Bi-weekly facility report
- Manage Rack and Ring requests
- Monthly finance report

5. Old Business

Review action items from prior meetings (kept separately from meeting minutes)

- Pickleball – At this time, it will not be pursued or explored further due to budgetary constraints and higher priority needs. With the exception of a few vocal individuals, it rarely comes up, suggesting there is insufficient interest and demand to justify the expense. Recreation Directors from surrounding boroughs have said that Pickleball creates a ton of headaches and suggest we not do it.

6. New Business

- Gingerbread Wonderland- December 8: 2:30-4pm
 - Laurie needs leadership volunteers from the recreation commission
- Tree Lighting – December 8: 4:30-6pm
 - We will need volunteers. Note that Gingerbread is the same day.
 - It is not clear if we can have a fire. Should there be a craft instead?
 - We will still have hot chocolate and Rice Krispy treats

- Menorah Lighting – December 29: 4-6pm
 - Laurie needs leadership volunteers from the recreation commission
- There is a Boy Scout looking to create a Gaga Pit for an Eagle Scout project. Discussion about where we could put it. There was a suggestion of Birchwood Beach due to the use of the beach for summer swimming, diving and recreation programs.
- Through hub lakes there have been questions about the quality of the softball field at the High School and Briarcliff. It may be a liability due to the lack of upkeep in the summer. Additional budget is being put aside in recreation for maintenance of the fields in the summer.
 - There is also a need to renovate the Little League and High School baseball fields

7. Announcements

Next meeting December 17, 2024

8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:15 PM.