

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for February 25, 2025 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on February 25, 2025 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: Heather Hornyak, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Rob Wianecki

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

Members not in attendance: James Aitken, Mark Odenwelder, Sara Forman (Board of Education Liaison)

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on January 21, 2025 was made by Derek and seconded by Shaun.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was prepared and presented by Laurie Stepper.

- Issued facility permits and promoted spring youth programs, including flag football, basketball, soccer, multi-sport, tennis, and volleyball provided by USA Sports and TJD Sports Academy
- Coordinated details for Junior Track and Clinic Track, including facility permits, registration, and league fees.
- Thurs, Feb 13 at 11 am – Norwescap presentation of NJ Save Program for Seniors at Borough Hall – Four participants attended.
- Sent a survey to Summer 2024 staff on their intent to return this summer, including tentative availability. This will help with determining how many new staff are needed.
- Started collecting summer employment applications.
- Updated waivers and code of conduct for Recreation Department run programs.
- Laker 55+ Club – Rutherford Hall Museum Tour scheduled for Jan 29 was cancelled due to low enrollment. The timing of the tour may have been the cause.
- Attended various online Municipal Excess Liability trainings as part of the MEL Safety Institute Leadership Academy program – Dealing with Difficult People; Ethics for NJ Local Government Employees; Protecting Children from Abuse; Implicit Bias in the Workplace; Preparing for the Unspeakable
- Attending the NJ Recreation and Parks Association Conference Sun-Tues, Feb 23-25 in Atlantic City. This was a great event to connect faces and names, with the vendors we work with throughout the year.

- Trout Derby Committee has agreed to stock 75% bass; 25% trout.
- Established dates and budgets for Summer Recreation Program, Teen Adventure, and Summer Sailing Program. New to Summer Recreation is a field trip to Boonton Lakes during Week 2. Have implemented an extended day program option in partnership with USA Sports Group. This will extend the day through lunch until 2:30 PM for Mon – Thurs. Week 2 of summer recreation will have a field trip to Boonton Lanes.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 20-March 20 (Thursdays) – Laker 55+ Cub - 5-part program of viewing of “The Pacific” tv series with discussion at Borough Hall, 1-3:30pm
- Mar 3 at 8:30am – Summer Program Registration Opens
- Mar 3 – Rack and Ring Renewal Opens
- Mar 12, 26, Apr 4, 23, May 7, 21 – Chair Yoga in partnership with Lakeland Hills Family YMCA at Borough Hall, 12:30-1:15pm
- Fri, Apr 11 at 4pm – Trout Derby stocking at Birchwood Lake
- Sat, Apr 12 at 8-10am – 62nd Trout Derby
- Sun, Apr 13 at 1pm – Egg Hunt at Midvale Park
- Wed, Apr 30 – Laker 55+ Club - Fly Fishing for Beginners in partnership with Hacklebarney Trout Unlimited at Birchwood Lake, 9am-12pm (rain date May 14).
- Thurs, July 3 – Fireworks (rain date July 5)
- Wed, Aug 20 – Movie Night at Island Beach

5. Old Business

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

Mountain Lakes Club (Angela Tsai update) – The Mountain Lakes Club is at a standstill right now. The owners are holding firm at an asking sale price of over \$5M that is not doable for the Borough at this time. The town will have the property assessed.

6. New Business

- 2025 Events Volunteers - Laurie will be sending a calendar of events for people to sign up. Members are expected to volunteer at least two events. The first event with need is the Easter Egg Hunt.
- New Commission Candidate - Ilaxi Rana is the only person that has applied. A motion was made by Derek Jackson to have Ilaxi join the Recreation Commission and was seconded by Rob Wianecki. The motion passed unanimously by the voting members.
- Commission Positions
 - Secretary – Heather Hornyak volunteered to step into the role.
 - Vice Chair – Derek Jackson volunteered to step into the role.
- Adding a student commission member – By the end of April we need to create a description of the position. It will be posted with the other student volunteer opportunities. Derek and Shaun will collaborate on the position description document.
- Astro turf Field Grant – It is thought that Borough owns half of the pit field property. If that is confirmed to be true, the town will need to pass an ordinance to transfer the property. This is really a School District project and the only ask is that the Borough

transfers the land. The Borough needs to do a fact-finding process, which includes a title search, that still must complete. The Borough is waiting for more information from the BOE, School District business administrator and/or lawyers to complete the due diligence and fact finding.

- Boat races – Last year we ran the town races on a Sunday morning. The participation was low. We will likely run the event on a Tuesday or Wednesday night in July.
- Fireworks – Discussion of whether we should have a band with the fireworks
- Food Truck Festival – \$5 per person, 20 trucks, alcohol is sold, and there will be an extra cost for some activities. The event would be free to recreation, other than the food. Location TBD but potentially on Pocono Road near the DPW on July 19.
- April meeting will be the 29th to avoid Spring Breaks.

7. Announcements

Next meeting March 18, 2025

8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:30 PM.