

MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes for February 24, 2015
7:30 PM Borough Hall

Present: Chairperson – Deborah Shertzer, Commissioners – Peter Herrera, Jim Petersen, Lydia Cipriani-Spoto, Kelly Thompson; Rec Director – Audrey Lane; Town Council Liaison – John Lester; Beach Director Matt Gottilla

Absent: Commissioner Nicole Wright, Liaison to Board of Ed – TBD

Motion to pass minutes from January meeting passed with no dissent.

- I. Beach Director Matt Gottilla joined to discuss upcoming beach season
 - a. Hiring staff: last year there were 14 guards including some part time. Matt has 8 guards returning, 4 new candidates to interview, and continues to seek more qualified staff.
 - b. Swim lessons: traditionally held in the morning but he may move them to 3pm after swim and dive team practice. This move is to avoid conflicting with rec summer camp and so that water is not so cold for classes. Matt is prepared to guard lessons if the beach is busy and demand on other guards is to great.
 - c. Swim Test- the Commission, along with many in the community, feels that the swim test could be improved. In accordance, Matt will address consistency of test administration; he will restrict administration of test to a small set of guards. The test will focus on survival ability over style and form. He believes the rotary breathing is important. Will also address the anxiety that many kids feel over the test when training the guards.
 - d. John Lester advises that guards should inform those violating the “no dogs on beach” ordinance, and then call the police. The police should be enforcing this.
- II. Other Commission business
 - a. Changes to beach rules passed (see attached)
 - b. 2015 Recreation Goals were reviewed and passed
 - c. Recreation Commission charter was reviewed. Commission agreed that the sub-committees are no longer needed. Audrey suggests establishing a standing “Resolution Committee”
 - d. Coach’s Code of Conduct review tabled until next meeting. Lydia will add to it a code of conduct for kids and parents. Commission will offer this to sports boards in need.
 - e. Halloween
 - i. The Board of Ed had discussed doing an event as an alternative to the village. Commission agrees that this remains the bailiwick of the Rec Department. Commission also agreed to explore the possibility of opening another block, e.g. Hanover/Melrose.
 - ii. Deb S will contact Board of Ed to clarify and also request a temporary liaison to the commission.
 - iii. Commission will write a recommendation regarding trick-or-treating to the Borough Council and Public Safety Commission next month.
 - f. Tennis Court Request from Boonton Township

- i. Audrey has a letter of response to BT stating that the tennis courts are, by ordinance, special use facilities for town residents only.
 - ii. Letter will remain on file until requested.
- III. Rec Director Report
 - a. Midvale Dock Boat racks will be done in time for the season. DPW is building them presently. Will install when weather permits.
 - b. Planning
 - i. Easter Egg Hunt 3/29 at 1:00
 - ii. Trout Derby Stocking 4/10 4-5pm, Derby 4/11 8-10am
 - iii. Summer Concerts: 7/9 and 7/23 or 7/30
 - iv. Summer Movie: 8/19 at dark
 - v. Halloween: Saturday, 10/31 4-8pm
 - vi. December planning: Due to Hanukkah dates, Menorah lighting has to be first week of December. Therefore, Tree lighting (normally first Sunday in December) will be on the first Saturday, 12/5, and Menorah Lighting will be on Sunday 12/6.
 - c. Rec Department is phasing out the use (and cost) of Constant Contact. RSchools has a module that can manage email distribution.
 - d. Baseline Concussion testing cancelled due to lack of interest.
 - e. Hub Lakes
 - i. HUB Lakes Board agreed that ML residents living in Arrowhead Lake area can choose for which Lake team they want to play. One "Lake commitment" per household. Great victory for Audrey, and common sense.
 - ii. Audrey working on getting horseshoe pits installed at Birchwood Lake, near basketball hoop, so ML can compete in HUB Lakes Horseshoes.
 - f. Audrey meeting with RSC, Architecture firm working on the town's beaches. She will solicit input from Swim Team and Sailing.
 - g. Met with 55+ group last week to define their needs, which are few.
 - h. The town has three candidates to hire for the borough manager position.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.