

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for November 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on November 21, 2023 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, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Mark Odenwelder, Tish Scarola

Non-voting Members in attendance: Laurie Stepper (Recreation Director), Lauren McIntyre (Board of Education Liaison), Melissa Muilenburg (Council Liaison)

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Phyllis Deering, Heather Hornyak

3. Approval of Minutes

The review and approval of the previous meetings' minutes on September 26 and October 17, 2023 will be done via email, or at the next meeting.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Laurie Stepper was introduced as the new Recreation Director.

Laurie earned a Wildlife and Fishery degree from Penn State University. She has about 25 years of non-profit experience, mostly in youth serving organizations. Government is new to her. Laurie was born and raised in Boonton, and now lives in White Meadow Lake. She has a 4-year-old girl.

The Director's report was presented by Laurie Stepper.

In the few weeks since her hire, Laurie has been meeting with leaders from various clubs, programs, and events. She is trying to familiarize herself with requirements, audience, logistics, administrative operations, hiring, expenses, successes, and opportunities etc. The order of engagement prioritized events and programs that are in season or about to start their season.

- David Schlett – Jr Wrestling –currently 34 kids registered after a 3 year break due to COVID.
- Joyce Leuchten – AAUW Choir - We will not be offering the holiday concert at St Ann's as the 55+ Club is on hiatus.
- Mark Walters – MS Ski Club –registration opened Nov 15 and filled Nov 16 with 80 participants; we currently do not have a waitlist yet.
- School Scheduler – Diana Alfonso –introduce ourselves and learn the rSchools facility request process.
- Vicki Allison – Beach Director

- Rabbi Dubinsky – Menorah Lighting – Dec 10
- Austin Vallies – HS Director of Choirs and Music Theory – Dec 3 Tree Lighting
- Danielle Cabana – Summer Recreation Camp Director
- Bruce Merritt - Jr Basketball
- Bryan Trowbridge - Jr Boys Lacrosse
- Jennifer Topakas - Jr Girls Lacrosse
- Kirk Swenson - Adult Rec Soccer Over 40
- Ranjan Bose - Jr Track and Cross Country
- Jake Denooyer - ML Sailing Association
- Kerri Tucker- USA Sports – Multi-Sports, Tennis, Soccer Squirts
- Bob Plante - Adult Rec Basketball
- Doug Mattoon – Summer Teen Travel program
- Mark Odenwelder - HUB Lakes
- Gianna DellaFera - Field Hockey
- David Keyt – Recreation Commission
- Attended the NJ League of Municipalities conference on Tues, Nov 14 for the day. Walked the entire vendor hall to network and meet vendors for various recreation needs. Attended a workshop on Community Engagement and learned tips on polling/surveying.
- Connected with NJ Recreation and Parks Association and will be attending the Annual Networking Event, including the Board of Directors meeting on Tues, Nov 28.
- Other upcoming scheduled introduction meetings:
 - rSchool system training on facility reservations, program, and account management
 - Kevin Wallace – ML Athletic Director

The Borough Blast recently announced a town photo contest to get some promotional media.

In 2024, the borough will be trying to resurrect the 55+ programs.

There will be a Police Benevolent Association event soon.

5. Old Business

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

- Holiday Events
 - Tree Lighting on Dec 3 @ Kaufmann Park
 - Menorah Lighting on Dec 10 @ Kaufmann Park
 - Island Beach Holiday Celebration on Dec 17
 - Volunteers will be needed to monitor the fire, hand out hot chocolate, cookies, smores. There will be no craft this year. It was not part of the tree lighting but was part of the beach event.

- Ski Club
 - The middle school ski program filled in 24 hours (80 kids). It will be managed and run by Mark Walters. The high school ski club will not run this year due to a lack of participation, and the inability to find someone who could manage and run the weekly trips.

6. New Business

- New Commission Member Recruitment - We have one open slot. Two candidates have applied.

7. Announcements

Next meeting December 19, 2023

8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:20 PM.