

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for December 19, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on December 19, 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, Phyllis Deering, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Mark Odenwelder, Tish Scarola

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

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Heather Hornyak, Lauren McIntyre (Board of Education Liaison)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting in September, October and November 2023 was made by David Keyt and seconded by Phyllis Deering.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was presented by Laurie Stepper.

- Continue to meet with community members who are involved with various programs and events
 - Kevin Wallace – ML School District Athletic Director
 - Ryan Dunn – ML School District Facilities Manager
 - Adrienne Benitez – Heart Hustle Hockey
 - Darrel Fusco – community service for sophomores and brief chat about Gray Hawks football
 - Gina Lalani – ML Swim and Dive Association and Service Unit Manager for Girl Scouts
 - Jennifer Lynch – Library Director
- Upcoming schedule meetings
 - Bob and Sue Elko for HUB Lakes
 - Jim Duerr – Tri-town Little League
 - Fish Hatchery to prepare for Trout Derby
- Holiday Events
 - Despite the weather, the Christmas Tree Lighting had about 100 people in attendance
 - Menorah Lighting had a bit more rain, but about 50-60 people attended
 - Holiday Gathering had been postponed to Wed, Dec 20 from 4:30-6pm due to rain and wind gusts

- Scheduled rSchool, facility and program registration platform, training to learn the system. I have had two sessions currently.
- Asked two vendors for fireworks quotes – Starfire Productions and Garden State Fireworks
- Ordered apparel for Jr Laker Wrestling program, which now has 42 kids registered.
- Ski Club starts Tues, Jan 2 with 80 middle schoolers. Advisors and buses have been confirmed.
- Securing two quotes to have the Jan Wilson Memorial Basketball Court re-stripped. I should have the second quote by Dec 22.
- I have been increasing the frequency of Facebook posts, and recently took over the weekly eblast. Eventually I will also oversee the electronic message board at Borough Hall and the website.
- The Photo Contest ended Dec 15 with over 70 photos submitted. Separate email will be sent on how to vote. Winner will be notified by Dec 22.
- Upcoming tasks – 2024 Calendar of events, Summer Rec Program and Teen Adventure planning, Trout Derby, and Egg Hunt

5. Old Business

The holiday gathering at Island Beach was postponed December 20th. Laurie is looking for volunteers to help.

6. New Business

There will be a discussion in a sub-committee about an extended season for watercraft and storage.

Overview and discussion of candidates for recreation commission vacancy. There was a vote to recommend a candidate to the borough council.

Laurie is working on a 2024 calendar of events for the full year. She will have an initial draft of proposed dates for January's meeting.

Laurie is interested in knowing where the Maple trees are in town for a potential event. Phyllis is on the shade tree commission and will see if she can find additional information.

Laurie is exploring the possibility of offering financial assistance to those who are in need to make recreation programs more accessible.

7. Announcements

Next meeting January 16, 2023

8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:25 PM.