

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for September 21, 2021 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on September 21, 2021 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: David Keyt, Derek Jackson, Gary Reznik, Ina Rose, Mark Odenwelder, Shaun Lehrer

Non-voting Members in attendance: Karen Brennfleck (Recreation Director), Joe Chang (Board of Education Liaison), Khizar Sheikh (Council Liaison)

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Heather Prince-Hornby, Tish Scarola

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting July 20, 2021 was made by Derek and seconded by Mark.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was presented by Karen Brennfleck.

- Summer Summary
 - We sold almost 2800 beach tags despite an increase in cost
 - The Island Beach Pavilion had very strong demand
 - Beach storage racks sold out
 - All recreation camps sold out

5. Old Business

- Pavilion & Field Rentals – There are a lot of requests from residents and organizations with resident participation to use the town facilities, particularly at Island Beach and Birchwood Lake. The beach and beach park facilities are often booked for parties, meetings, weddings etc. The current policy provides an unguaranteed reservation for non-exclusive use. However, usually people are respectful of the reservation. Given the demand, facility wear and cleanup, there was suggestion that we may want to create a reservation fee. Karen will prepare a draft proposal.
- Island Beach and Birchwood Bathrooms - Many residents have requested that the bathrooms be open to the public. The bathrooms were previously open to the public before the renovations. This policy was continued after the renovation. However, bad actors were not respectful of the facilities and left them in a disgusting state and damaged. As a result, the bathrooms were closed outside the beach hours. There are portable toilets at the Birchwood and Island Beach parking lots. After discussion, the recommendation was that we try to again open the bathrooms to the public. Karen will prepare a draft proposal.

- There have been multiple requests to allow the boat racks to be available for year-round storage and boat access. Derek will prepare a draft proposal.
- On several occasions residents showed up at the beach with guests but did not have guest passes. This put lifeguards in a difficult situation where they struggled to enforce the guest pass policy. The town will sell guest passes at the beach for an additional surcharge over the pre-purchased guest passes. At the present time, the only option for payment will be personal checks. Online, credit card and/or cashless electronic options will be explored.
- Recreation will try to offer swim lessons at the Craig School in advance of the beach season. The goal of these lessons will be to prepare swimmers for the beach test.
- Signs will be created to support the enforcement of beach park policies.
 - Birchwood/Island Beach access and parking
 - Fishing prohibited at Birchwood Docks during beach season
 - Fishing prohibited at Island Beach boat dock during beach hours
 - Birchwood Volleyball gate to steer hikers to the bypass path

6. New Business

- Mountain Lakes Day no longer has committee leaders or volunteers in the community. In the absence of individuals coming up, this event will cease and will not be part of the Borough's 2022 budget. We will advertise on the Borough Blast, Virtual Backpack and Facebook etc. Historically the celebration was on Memorial Day, but the date and/or format could change based on the new leadership's vision.
- Karen needs a member of the Recreation Commission to be the HUB Lakes Representative. Mark Odenwelder volunteered.
- Last winter half of the lights on the Christmas tree in Kaufman Park stopped working. They need to be replaced. We have been unable to find someone to replace the lights due to the size of the tree and potential damage to the tree. Further options are being explored, including buying a new tree or trees.

7. Announcements

Next meeting October 19, 2021

8. Adjournment

David moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek seconded the motion. The motion passed at 9:10 PM.