

November 14, 2024
Recreation Commission Minutes

Attendance: Lisa Subramanya, Arlan Feiles, Eddie Holland, Jay Lobosco, Alexis Livesey, Megan Taraszkievicz, Cathy Zavorskas, Melaina Conroy

Start: 6:05 pm

Winter Lights Festival

Cathy showed various blow-up inflatable decorations for the festival. Cathy also reviewed a map of Terhune Park to go over the layout of the lights. The goal is to have most lights go on simultaneously when Santa lights the park upon his arrival. Right now, his approximate arrival is 7:15 pm. Adam from Matawan DPW is building a large “switch” for Santa to use to turn on the lights in the park. We will have a rehearsal to coordinate the lights going on simultaneously.

There will also be lights to line the stage with some new wire framed lighted additions.

Make & Take crafts were discussed. We have Christmas & winter themed keychains to be colored, Kwanzaa scratch cards, Winter themed photo frames that can be decorated & a Menorah sticker kit. Arlan mentioned it would be good to have a “design a dreidel” craft. Then can have a volunteer teach the game and can hand out Hannukah gelt.

There will be no blow-up inflatables for kids to jump in. They cannot be lighted and it’s a safety risk. Sand art, face painter & balloon artist has been secured.

Brew will be providing coffee, will also have hot chocolate, candy canes & chocolate. Currently there is a fire ban due to the ongoing drought, unless lifted there will not be fire pits and smores available.

No characters have been secured to walk the festival. Arlan mentioned that he knew someone who works as the character “Elsa” from Frozen. He reached out to her during the meeting and secured her for the event. Jay asked if we could rent a snowman costume, Megan mentioned Olaf. Recreation will research and investigate this.

Main Street Holiday Decorations

Cathy also went over decorations on Main Street. We have some new light up additions, such as the word “Joy” vertically and some snowmen. DPW is measuring the lampposts to wrap with lights to plug in to the wreaths that are at the top. There will also be an additional 11 trees lit.

Turkey Trot

Currently have 426 runners registered.

Cathy went over the layout for Registration/Check in the morning of the Turkey Trot. Alexis mentioned that Walk in/Day of Registration would need more table space to have more attendees fill out paperwork swiftly.

We will need assistance on Monday, November 25th to help with Bib pinning/packet prep. Bib pick up is Tuesday, November 26th from 11am – 1 pm and 5pm – 7pm at Borough Hall. We will include a sheet with instructions for runners to explain new layout. Runners should warm up at Terhune Park. Matawan Police would like to keep everyone stationed at Terhune Park and then release runners in waves starting at 8:10 am to make their way to Jackson Street Start Line. Matawan Police will have 12 men on duty for the Trot.

New Jersey Sports, Spine & Wellness will be on site doing demonstrations for the Runners. They also mentioned coming with an IV Drip Bar. This is pending and needs to be thoroughly researched due to Insurance reasons.

Cathy showed the new Turkey Trot logo and the new shirt. The new shirt is a 50/50 moisture wicking blend. The medals will have new logo but with black writing so that it stands out.

Advertising of the Turkey Trot was discussed. Race has been shared to local running clubs and well-advertised on social media. Cathy will have Christina do another post emphasizing the new certified course.

Kids Dash will take place at the end of the race. Two possible locations for this to take place, either on South Street or on the strip of land near the Gazebo across from Terhune Park.

Alexis asked if a DJ has been secured. Recreation will investigate this and secure one. Megan mentioned having The National Anthem sung or played before the race start. Cathy will investigate having someone sing, needs to give it some thought.

Runner provisions were discussed. Going to order/secure bananas, oranges, trail mix and bagels.

Volunteers for Turkey Trot must be on site and ready to open at 7:00 am.

Miscellaneous

Matawan DPW is very busy with leaf pick up. They have requested that we secure Recreation volunteers to help take down the remaining lights in Terhune Park. Megan, Jay & Eddie volunteered and will be doing this the morning of Tuesday, November 19th.

Cathy ordered hoodies for Commission, and they should be here for Turkey Trot.

Holiday Lights Contest: Cathy would like to advertise where the houses are and encourage residents to go out and drive by homes. We will be looking in to glow in the dark holiday themed stakes to be placed in front of homes in the contest to alert spectators they are participating. Alexis mentioned putting a QR code on each stake that links to a Google form for them to vote.

Cathy plans to use the Town Wide Yard Sale map for people to travel and visit contestant homes. Eddie also mentioned utilizing the “Next Door” app as a possibility.

It was also discussed to possibly do a “Facebook Live” in front of the winner’s home to present a trophy.

There will be 4 categories again for people to vote on.

July 4th: Discussion on when to hold event. July 4, 2025, is on a Friday. Cathy will be reaching out to pyrotechnic company to try and secure date with July 5, 2025, being the rain date.

Easter Egg Hunt: Will be reimagining this event and will be discussed in January. Cathy mentioned she plans on holding a “Bunny Hop” contest to break local records.

Summer Camp: Hoping to hold camp at Borough Hall instead of Ravine Drive School this year. Camp is for kids in grades K-8. Ravine Drive School is for kids K-3, so equipment is too small for most of the campers. We also plan to have a “Specials” week where kids can select an activity to learn that week such as kayaking, fishing, etc.

Skate Park: Eddie inquired as to why Matawan doesn’t have a skate park. Discussion followed about possible available land in Matawan and the increased insurance liability. Cathy asked Eddie to contact Keyport Recreation and ask about their skate park costs & details.

Borough Hall Gym & Cafeteria: Air conditioning was approved for both rooms and working on putting in floor improvements. Long term goal is to have rooms used by Seniors during the day for activities & social gatherings and kids in the evening for a “Community Center” type of structure. This is a long-term goal and will require planning.

Memorial Day Parade: Need to determine day and time soon. This will be discussed further in January. Goal is to secure bands and local community teams & organizations early to ensure their participation in the parade.

There will be no meeting in December of the Recreation Commission. The next meeting will be the 2025 Recreation Commission Planning Meeting and is currently scheduled for Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm with lunch included. Location to be determined.

Meeting End: 7:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Melaina Conroy", followed by the date "11/13/24". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melaina Conroy
Recreation Assistant