

Franklin Borough: Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes for

August 13, 2026

This meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Chairperson, Mr. Babcock, who then led the assembly in the flag salute.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mr. Fredrick Babcock – Chairperson (present)
Mr. James Affinito - Vice-Chairperson (present)
Mrs. Crystal Talmadge – Member (present)
Mrs. Christine Affinito – Member (present)
Mrs. Rachel Heath - Council Liaison (absent)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 30th minutes - Approved

Overview

The committee reviewed upcoming community events, budget adjustments, and administrative updates regarding municipal coordination.

Event Planning

9/11 Memorial

- Jim reported that bricks and lights are ordered for the memorial, but a trench must be dug before the deadline. There is ongoing frustration regarding permit delays and communication with local officials.
- Performers include a bagpiper, a singer of the national anthem, and Mia. Phil was invited to speak as the historian.
- The committee approved purchasing display lights from Aldo Sanchez for not to exceed \$2,400 and hiring him as a DJ for not to exceed \$300.
- A plan is in place to use chairs for dignitaries and members of the fire department and first aid squad.

Community Activities

- The Mets Game trip is struggling with low ticket sales; currently, 21-25 tickets are accounted for.
- A casino trip is scheduled for September 26.
- For the Vendor Fair, Christine noted significant interest with approximately 33 vendors identified.

Financial Matters

Budget Adjustments

- The committee addressed reimbursement issues following an administrative error where a vendor was sent the wrong confirmation email. A motion passed to reimburse her \$25 vendor fee.
- A correction was made for the Mets Game bus trip, increasing the spending limit from \$1,600 to \$1,700 due to updated proposals.
- Another adjustment was made to increase the pageant spending limit from \$700 to \$750 to cover actual expenses incurred.

Administrative Updates

- Christine proposed testing Otter AI at approximately \$16.99 per month to assist with generating meeting minutes more efficiently and reducing reliance on external staff.

Operational Issues

Municipal Coordination

- Significant tension exists between committee members and borough officials regarding responsiveness and support for local initiatives.
- There are concerns about whether certain borough employees are effectively assisting with communications or if their lack of involvement is intentional difficulty.

Facility Use

- The committee approved applications from Wallkill Valley Little League Baseball Field Use.
- To ensure a solemn atmosphere during the 9/11 Memorial, it was agreed that no baseball practices or games will occur on that date despite existing schedules.

New Business and Financial Adjustments

- Prepare and submit a second motion sheet to reimburse Jazz Studio for the incorrect vendor fare fee (\$25) and process the refund once approved.
- Adjust the bus budget for the Mets Game so that spending on the bus trip does not exceed \$1,700 instead of \$1,600, and update the relevant motion sheets accordingly.
- Revise the July 30 motion regarding the 9/11 memorial pavers so that Notchwood Landscaping will be ordered to provide the pavers at a total cost of \$1,260, with payment split between accounts 0328356851033 and 0328356851031, and reflect this amendment in the formal records.
- Measure the inside firehouse space for vendors before accepting any additional booth applications for the upcoming festival.
- Start reaching out to potential food truck vendors (including your friend who is a pickle person) to secure more food trucks for the festival.
- Email Aldo Sanchez again about the 9/11 memorial lights order and follow up until you receive pricing and timing confirmation.
- Follow up with remaining 9/11 ceremony performers (bagpiper, singer(s), and other musicians) who have not yet confirmed attendance and send them updated letters of invitation.
- Print and bring the Wind Creek Casino trip bus contract tomorrow so it can be added to the minutes and used to adjust the bus budget.
- Inform Keith that there must be no baseball practice or games at the senior center field on September 11 and ask him to pass that restriction along to his team.
- After next month's meeting, send Halloween event information letters out to residents in September.
- Contact the landscaper directly to discuss obtaining the computer program/software used to control the rented display lights and figure out how to operate it yourself.
- Print approximately five flyers promoting the food truck festival and distribute them at community locations such as the football rally and local businesses.

Final Approvals and Adjournment

- The committee approved purchasing 9/11 display lights from Aldo Sanchez for up to \$2,400.
- A motion was passed to hire Aldo Sanchez as a DJ for the memorial event not exceeding \$300.
- Discussion concluded regarding food truck festival marketing and upcoming Halloween activities before adjournment.

AJOURNMENT:

Mr. Babcock asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Affinito made the motion. Seconded by Mrs. Affinito

All were in favor. *The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm