

**Bernardsville Recreation Committee**  
**September 12th, 2023 Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Bernardsville Recreation Committee was held on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 at Borough Hall. Ted Dolan called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ted Dolan, Lou Romano, Kerry Haselton, Brian Gallagher, Melissa Provost, Steve Reynolds, Andy Taylor staff members Bob Markowick, Leah Horowitz, and Councilwoman Diane Greenfield.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Minutes approved by Andy, second by Kerry

**OPEN SESSION:**

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Summer 2023 Rec Overview:**

Rec Camp saw approximately 130 kids per week and employed nearly 30+ local teens and adults. Camp was Mon-Friday, with various "Fun Friday" entertainers and events brought in. Rec Camp included rotations through sports, art, playground, games, and pool. Friday entertainment and events included a magician, The Lizard Guys, a Bubble Show, a DJ dance party, a juggler, Mayors Wellness Day, a Talent Show, and a water fun/ tie dye party to end camp. There were also various theme day Thursdays to dress up to including tacky tourist day, mismatched day, patriotic day, team spirit day, superhero day, crazy hair day, and movie character day. Lastly, camp participants also got to participate in a field day with Bedminster Camp. Previously this day was competitive between camps, Rec assistant director Leah hopes to work with Bedminster director Neil in order to make this a friendship day for summer 2024. There can sometimes be conflicts between towns' sports programs, as students that will eventually join schools together, we would like to encourage teamwork and friendship instead of competition.

Mayors Wellness Day was a new contribution to camp this summer. Previously this day was Health and Safety Day, which is a day of getting to know the local police officers, firefighters, and EMS. This was an important initiative from rec assistant director Leah Horowitz, this day's purpose is to desensitize the youth of the community to these public figures who might get called upon in an emergency situation. For a child, instances like that are very scary, this day aims to help children to trust and understand the role of emergency services. Taking it a step further, this year we incorporated Community in Crisis, as well as MSBH Fitness and Wellness. Teaching kids the importance of taking care of themselves both mentally and physically as well.

### Comments from rec camp parents survey:

- "Thank you - camp was a huge hit in our house this year!"
- "Camp was good last year, but this year was great. The girls had a fantastic time, loved their counselors, and the communication this year via text/email was a great addition. The girls also loved the 2nd option to swim as well. The only suggestion I would make, if even possible, would be to streamline registration because there are so many options, it's easy to get confused (and forget to sign up your kids for the last 2 weeks of camp). Thank you to everyone for a great camp experience!!!"
- "Wow! Our kiddo only went to 2 weeks of rec camp this summer and he had an amazing time. Safe, fun, age-appropriate, easy .... Already talked about sending both kids full time for the whole summer next year rather than independent/expensive/"boutique" camps like this year. They are excited to be with friends doing super cool stuff! Great idea for counselors to not be able to be on phones - everyone benefits from this! Thank you for all your hard work rec dept leaders and workers! Yay!"
- "Thank you for giving the kids a great summer!"
- "See you next year for sure!!"
- "This is the best camp! Thank you for everything. If aftercare could be extended to 5 PM I would appreciate it for next year. We will be signing up again in 2024!!!"
- "My son had an absolutely awesome experience...he loves loves loves this camp and all of the counselors !!! Thank you ! Very positive experience..."

### Summer Events:

- Movie Nights: In partnership with Main Street Bernardsville, we were able to contribute 6 outdoor movie nights at the pool, free for the community. These movie nights had various pre-show entertainment and fun. This included a candy bar and crafts, kids obstacle courses and games, s'mores making with campfire stories, story trivia night with the Bernardsville Library, adult night live band entertainment, and a minion dance party with Dance Local.
- Various live music bands and performers at the pool but open to the community.
- Ice Cream Social 7/30
- Games/activities at National Night Out
- Family Fun Night 8/11
- Poolside Yoga offered 8/3 and 8/24
- Senior BBQ and BINGO 8/17
- Craft Fair and live music showcasing local artists 8/12
- Adult Water Aerobics offered at the Bernardsville Pool

### Fall 2023:

Programs: Registration is currently open for various fall rec activities including Abrakadoodle Art Classes, Drama Kids, Fun N' Games, Fall Basketball Clinics, Men's Softball League, Middle School Art with The Meraki, Competition Cheer, after-school coding class with Bricks, Bots, and Beakers, Pickleball group and private lessons, Creative Flow Yoga for middle school, Yoga and Mindfulness K-4th, Sewing Classes, and drop-in Kraft nights with Kristal!

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- Cyclocross- Money will be pulled from the Cyclocross trust account to mulch and seed the damaged areas

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Lacrosse wants to fund a bounce-back wall on the polo grounds
- Safety nets needed at the polo grounds to separate the baseball field and the turf
- Issues with the baseball big field area of the polo grounds need to be addressed, maintenance needed. Possible to work it in while the walking path is being built
- Working on getting quotes for pool construction
- Stairs at Rose Bowl are a safety concern

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**The meeting was adjourned by Ted Dolan at 8:18pm, second by Steve Reynolds**