

Recreation Meeting  
April 18, 2018  
February Meeting Minutes

Open Public Records Act Read

Attendance:

Mr. Teets – Present

Mr. Coward – Present

Mrs. Bucci – Present

Mrs. Crossley – Present

Mr. Neggers – Unexcused (no call or text)

**Miss Newton:**

Discussion was started regarding revamping the program and competition. There has been a decrease in applications. Not sure if it's because the girls have stage fright or if due to increased sports and social obligations, they just are not interested in spending Friday night competing for a title.

Mike Teets stated maybe we need to see how other towns are handling their event. What do they do that is different from us?

Rufus Coward stated that we should reach out to other towns, farthest away from Newton, who possibly may not know the contestant directly. There may be favoritism, towards certain participants.

Debbie Danielson stated that due to the controversy surrounding the Recreation President's son winning the contest last year, a lot of feedback was received in the Recreation Office that no one wants to enter as favoritism is being perceived; the rules now state that no one's child can enter the contest if you have an immediate family member who holds a town position paid or volunteer.

Karen Crossley suggested possibly hosting a luncheon introducing the contest. Mrs. Danielson stated that it doesn't need to be a production as Miss Newton represents the town at 5 or 6 town events. She must attend the Queen of the Fair. This year's recipient went on vacation, and it was not appreciated by several members of the community.

Ideas were tossed around about making the prizes larger in value and maybe reaching out to other businesses outside our borders.

We will be discussing this again during the April meeting. Think about new ideas.

**Newton Day:**

Date is set for June 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussion came up about several members already knowing that they will be representing sports groups or hosting a space for their own business. Mrs. Danielson contacted Nancy Woods regarding the Recreation Commission members assisting the GNCC with tasks during the day. They could advise the GNCC of their slotted time availability and then the GNCC can put them to task.

Mr. Teets advises that he knows already that his kids have sports and Rachel Bucci will be renting a space for her business so she already knows that she will not be available. Each year that the Recreation Commission is asked to participate, timing is always an issue, as other obligations come up, limiting their availability.

Karen Crossley suggested maybe contact the high school kids and give them volunteer hours. Mrs. Danielson will advise the GNCC on behalf of the Rec Commission that they are willing to donate hours to support their event rather than participating in running an event or game down at Memory Park.

**Easter Egg Hunt:**

Date for the Egg Hunt was chosen as March 24<sup>th</sup>.. Easter is Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>.. we need have a rain date, or possibly snow date due to the recent unpredicted weather.. Easter is so early this year.. and also Spring Break.. Rain Date will be March 31<sup>st</sup>.. Flyers will be designed by Kat Walker, Administrative Assistant for the Recreation Department. She will then as in years past send them electronically to the schools and we will post the events onto the Recreation and town social media pages.

**Egg Dyeing Event:**

Mrs. Bucci has received from the Weichert Realtors office where she is employed, 50 kits for dyeing hard boiled eggs. Location will at the Newton Firehouse located on Mill Street. Mrs. Danielson will look to get the eggs donated, if not Mrs. Bucci offered to purchase the eggs. The date for this will be Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6p-8p.. We will not advertise this event to broadly as it is our first event and we need to have an official test run first. Too many people could be a disaster. We will offer an arts and craft, as well as a cookie decorating station. Mrs. Danielson will talk to the bake shop at VoTech and see if they are able to make 100 sugar cookies for the kids to decorate. Discussion as whether we should offer snacks and drinks? We will ask that they RSVP so that we know how many kids we could anticipate so that we ensure that we have enough supplies.

**Senior Spring Luncheon/School Play - TOMMY:**

Discussion on the menu. Baked ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, biscuit/honey bun and desserts from the VoTech Bake shop.. the high school kitchen staff is in charge of cooking. Always a great meal. Spring bonnets are encouraged.. Discussion on offering raffles gifts once again, small in value, just like we did at the holiday luncheon.

Setup will be at 10:30am, luncheon will begin at 12n prompt.. The seniors need to in the auditorium and ready to go by 2pm, as that is the start of the play.. This luncheon has to run on time and be prompt.. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance during the luncheon since Santa was such a big hit. The Rec Commission receives a \$1000 donation from Thor Labs for the purchase of 100 tickets to the show. These tickets are then distributed to the Seniors for the show.

**Hank Smith Memorial Scoreboard:**

Past President of NJAL Hank Smith passed away in January.. The family requested that memorial donations be made to the Baseball – NJAL. I spoke to his wife and explained that there is no more NJAL and that I would like to see the donations be applied to the scoreboard. Not the entire scoreboard, just the surface. Mrs. Danielson gave the design to Mrs. Smith who approved the design, so now close to \$3500 needs to be raised in order to completely pay for the sign.

Tap Into Newton and the NJ Herald will be doing a story to hopefully raise any short falls in our fundraising efforts. Checks need to be made directly to the Newton Recreation and not the NJAL due to the NJAL being no longer.

Mr. Teets requests a letter so that he can ask the football program for a donation.

SignaRama is building the sign. They are starting the process in good faith that the money will be raised. Mrs. Smith will be going to Mrs. Danielson's office tomorrow morning to discuss the dedication so that a plan will be ready to go once the sign is complete. The goal is to get this up and an unveiling to occur with the first home game.

**SOAPbox Derby:**

Mr. Russo asked that we discuss and preplan for the soapbox derby.

Ideas and discussion was had, and s tabled for now. Committee will ponder and think about ideas.

Need to keep in mind: Inspection Station, Sports, Pool Hours, food, spectators and spectator parking...

Meeting adjourned at 19:25pm

M. Teets

R.Coward

**\*\*No March Meeting due to snow storm\*\***