



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Attendees: Angela Andre, Jim Curnal, Donna Faulkenberry, Bob Hilse, John Lavelle, Karen Masucci, Amanda Perelman, Jenny Tedesco, Rob Wait

Call to Order: 7:08 pm

Review of Minutes: September 10, 2025 minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept by Angela. Seconded by Amanda.

Spotswood 5K Recap: Bob had points where we can improve on this event for next year. We can use coupon codes and give them to the track team so they can register for free in advance and not have to wait until the day of the race. We can also use this code when we donate a free registration as a tricky tray prize. We will need three tablets or laptops with the downloaded app to keep up with in-person registrations. We need a cashless option. Some paid Karen by Venmo at the event. Can we have our own Venmo account? We need to discuss traffic and plans in June with EMS and then send a reminder in August. For registrations that take place on the day of the race, we need to set a "hard stop" at 8:30 am so that registrants won't arrive later and hold up the race. We should add this note to the flyer. The timer guy emailed Bob that he is going to conduct fewer races in the future. This was probably a heads-up notice that he won't be timing our race in the future. Bob can ask Paul Wasserman for timer company recommendations. We also need to ask the police to make parking on one side of the street only for Vaughn, Elleneel, and Adirondack Avenues. Overall, our registration revenue has increased over the years: 2022- \$1,785; 2023- \$1,528; 2024- \$3,667; 2025- \$4,100.

Vendor Fair Recap: We had 22 vendors registered. Eddie sent in a message that this was the most-attended Vendor Fair we've had to date.

Oktoberfest Recap: We had 20 community organizations and six food trucks. The seventh food truck that was scheduled never handed in its food handling license and fire permit applications. The weather was great and the event was very well-attended. There was a problem with one of the food trucks. Joe from The Zeppole Guys arrived about an hour and a half earlier than he was supposed to and yelled when Juicy Julian's Dirty Dogs truck pulled up. Joe threatened to leave the event but decided to stay. The lines for the food trucks were very long all night. Oktoberfest was started in place of National Night Out. The title of the event could be changed to "Spotswood Day," where we continue to honor our emergency responders. We could combine the 5K with Spotswood Day, like Milltown does. Parking at International Paper went very smoothly. As there were also football and baseball games taking place at the high school, Donna said we will coordinate with the district on planning future events so we don't have conflicts. Amanda said the sensory table was very successful and generated a lot of interest among children with special needs. Donna mentioned that we also applied for a \$20,000 grant to help fund our buddy ball and sensory tables programs.

Adult Basketball: Thursdays, September 25 through June 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm- Memorial gym.
Rob reported that four people came last week, but was told that attendance will pick up in October and November.

Kids' Basketball: Tuesdays, September 30 through November 11, 6:00 - 8:00 pm- Memorial gym.
Theresa sent in a message that the clinic went smoothly for the second week. There are 47 kids, so she will look for extra help. John from DPW moved the small basketball nets to Memorial on Monday, so that was a big help for the younger kids. Karen gave Theresa a first aid kit, a supply of ice packs, and more basketball t-shirts. Theresa said there are a lot of younger kids plus older siblings. This clinic is to learn the basics of basketball so that kids are prepared to play. She handed out prizes.

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12.
There are 69 houses that are registered. A map and a list of all addresses for each day were created. Both were promoted on Spotswood, Helmetta, Milltown, and East Brunswick Facebook pages and emailed to our contact list.

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 25, 2:00 - 4:00 pm- Spotswood High School senior parking lot.
Karen got the venue changed to SHS senior lot, which is a larger space. The facilities usage request was approved. We moved up the times by an hour so that the event will be finished before the homecoming dance at the high school. There are two flyers: one for trick-or-treaters and one for decorated cars to hand out candy. Both activities require registration to participate. Both flyers have been posted on Facebook and emailed to our contacts. Karen also emailed

the community groups from Oktoberfest to invite each to host a decorated car. Families who are trick-or-treating must show ID at the event since we are limiting attendance to Spotswood and Helmetta. Karen will post a follow-up message on Facebook reiterating that this is a closed event. At this time, we have 26 families and five cars registered. Karen will ask Kayla if we can have cars and Rec members arrive as early as 12:00 or 12:30 so they have time to decorate..

Turkey Trot: Thursday, November 27, 8:30 - 10:30 am- Spotswood High School Track

Karen reserved the high school track. In the past, we had 30-60 people come out for this activity. Angela suggested that we have crafts, face-painting, etc., to entertain the kids. We are not having Wacky Wayne, so we will need to provide music. We can ask Nick Higgins to show Bob how to set up the speakers. Donna said that with the budget coming up for review soon, we could talk about updating our sound system.

Cookies with Mrs. Claus: Thursday, December 4, 3:30 - 4:15 pm and 4:30 - 5:15 pm

Angela and Karen worked out the date of December 4 with Kara at the library. There will be two free sessions. We will provide cookies and juice or water bottles, plus a toy or giveaway. Karen will ask Ana Przytula what they did last year. Angela will contact the National Honor Society to ask for help.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Saturday, December 6, 4:00 - 6:00 pm- Spotswood Municipal Building

Donna said this will be an "all hands on deck" event. Krista will open by singing "The National Anthem" plus two additional Christmas songs. Last year, there were s'mores and hot chocolate trucks. Karen has been in touch with Dunkin' Donuts in Spotswood. Mike said he'd donate munchkins and/or hot chocolate to the event. The Jamesburg Dunkin' Donuts offered to give us a discount. Wayne is providing the music, and Karen will reach out to the community groups, inviting them to have tables.

Menorah Lighting: Sunday, December 14, 7:00 pm- Spotswood Municipal Building

We don't know much about this event. Karen mentioned that when her husband, Sal, did it for Helmetta, they would serve individually packaged jelly donuts for the attendees. Karen will reach out to Melissa Hallerman for input.

Santa Visit on the Firetruck: Saturday, December 20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Amanda nominated her husband, Eugene, to dress as Santa. Angela offered to be on one of the trucks, dressed as Mrs. Claus. We will have a giveaway for the kids and treats for residents' dogs.

Buddy Ball: Saturdays, January 10 through February 14, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Karen will check with Kayla to see if we can move this program from Memorial to Appleby. We don't want a conflict with our indoor soccer program. DECA is revising the flyer.

East Spotswood Park: We have a \$79,000 grant for this project. Donna submitted our recommendation to the mayor and business administrator to use the same company that the schools used. We have to reach out to Middlesex to see when we have to spend the grant money. If they see we are making progress, they will extend the deadline.

Michael Road Park Pavilion: Amanda emailed some information to Karen. If families bring propane tanks or open flames, they will need to be inspected. We will also need portable bathrooms there.

NJ Devils Township Program: Donna said we could organize a trip for residents to a game on Thursday, January 29. The cost per person would be \$39. We could add the "high-five tunnel" extension if we meet a certain level of sales. We would have to pay a school bus driver. Angela says the bus driver's rate is between \$30 and \$46 per hour. We would have room on the bus for 48 people. We would need to pay for the bus driver's ticket to the game.

Indoor Soccer Program: We need someone to run it. That includes arranging teams, getting coaches and referees. The program is designed for grades K through 5. Donna asked everyone to put their feelers out. We may have to pay someone or several people to run the program. Karen suggested giving community service hours to high school soccer players. They might not be able to commit to the program with their own soccer game schedules.

Tiny Soccer Program: Jenny said this would be set up for ages 2 - 4. About ten families have expressed interest in this program. Jen created a flyer, and we could set up a zoom meeting to see community interest. Karen will see if we can hold this at Schoenly in January and February 2026. We will charge a lower registration fee. Possibly \$30 per child. T-shirts cost \$9.00 each

Next meeting: November 12

Adjournment: 8:37 pm. Motion to adjourn by Angela. Seconded by Amanda.

Submitted by Karen Masucci on October 10, 2025