



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Attendees: Angela Andre, Jim Curnal, Mike Elias, Donna Faulkenberry, Karen Masucci, Amanda Perelman, Elena Persico, Jenny Tedesco, Rob Wait

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Review of Minutes: October 8, 2025 minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept by Jim. Seconded by Angela.

Community Yard Sale Recap: We had 67 houses signed up for the weekend of October 11 and 12, but it was rainy. So we added the weekend of October 25 and 26. We had 42 houses registered for the second weekend. We will do this again in the Spring and Fall of 2026.

K-8 Basketball Recap: The program ended yesterday. Theresa told Karen that it went smoothly. One parent emailed that their two registered children never attended. We will transfer their registration to the K-5 soccer program on a one-time basis.

Trunk or Treat Recap: We had 14 cars handing out candy. We had three awards for best-decorated cars, and the prizes were two Amazon gift cards and one free registration. We ordered 30 pizzas from Maria's. There were 154 registered kids, of which 121 came, and 77 unregistered kids who showed up. Angela said she doesn't like the registration aspect, and others agreed with her. If we don't require registration, we need to check IDs at the door to keep it a Spotswood/Helmetta event. Everyone agreed that the bingo card is a good way to involve kids and get them to visit every car once. After all bingo boxes are marked, the child gets a slice of pizza. The trunk or treat was continued during Covid, and the question of whether we should continue it or not was brought up. Is it necessary? Donna mentioned that Rec used to have a pizza party at the high school on Halloween night with dancing and a costume contest. Everyone liked doing a Halloween party, but maybe not on Halloween night. We don't want to conflict with Memorial or PTA's Halloween dances.

Adult Basketball: Thursdays, September 25 through June 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm- Memorial gym.
Rob said participation is increasing as the temperature drops. There are about 10-12 people who come. Our basketballs are old and cracked. We need to buy more. The attendees bring their own, but we should have some on hand.

Turkey Trot: Thursday, November 27, 8:30 - 10:30 am- Spotswood High School Track
Angela said she doesn't know if Bob spoke with Nick Higgins to show him how to set up the speakers. She said we need water bottles, munchkins, and apples or bananas. We will check the shed for a backdrop banner for photos. Karen posted the flyer and emailed it to our contact list. Subsequent to this meeting, Karen confirmed with Buildings & Grounds that the gate will be opened by 7:00 am, and we have access to electrical outlets.

Cookies with Mrs. Claus: Thursday, December 4, 3:30 - 4:15 pm and 4:30 - 5:15 pm
We will provide water and juice boxes, and Angela will call Tuscany and ask for donated cookies. She requested volunteers from the NHS and Community Service Club, but hasn't heard back yet. Ana Przytula is making stockings as gifts for all the kids. Subsequent to this meeting, Karen posted and emailed the flyer on Monday, November 17. Within two hours, the event was full.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Saturday, December 6, 4:00 - 6:00 pm- Spotswood Municipal Building
We only have five community groups coming to the event. Karen will reach out again to our list of organizations. Dunkin' Donuts is generously donating 300 cups of hot chocolate, 200 munchkins, and 10 dozen donuts. After opening remarks at 5:15 pm, Krista will sing The National Anthem and Christmas songs. Then, the first-grade chorus will sing, the tree will be lit, and Santa will arrive on the firetruck. We need someone to light the tree. Last year, the Borough Council did it. Angela suggested we ask Graham Peabody to light it. Donna said that someone got bitten by a dog at Oktoberfest so Karen will add a note to the Tree Lighting flyer that "for the safety of our patrons, please leave your pets at home. We welcome registered service animals only." We will purchase items for the quiet, sensory room from Amazon and get the Christmas backdrops out of the shed. Subsequent to this meeting, Graham said he'd be honored to light the tree.

Menorah Lighting: Tuesday, December 16, 3:30 pm- Spotswood Municipal Building

Originally scheduled for Sunday, December 14, at 7:00 pm, the local rabbi is not quick to respond and has limited availability. Melissa recommended a different rabbi in Monroe. We will contact him next year.

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

John agreed to dress up as Santa. We will have him give out a small bag with a candy cane and a gingerbread craft. At the next meeting, we will put together the bags. Donna said we will also get treats for dogs.

Indoor Soccer K-5: Saturdays, January 10 through February 28, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Melissa Riccio-Herselman will run it. The flyer has been posted and emailed. So far, 32 kids are registered. Anyone who is Rutgers-certified and signs up as a coach will get one free registration for a child. We have two parents interested in coaching so far. Registration closes on December 21.

Indoor Soccer 6-8: Fridays, January 9 through March 6, 6:00 - 8:00 pm (except Jan. 30 and Feb. 20)

John will run it. The flyer has been posted and emailed. So far, 1 child is registered. Anyone who is Rutgers-certified and signs up as a coach will get one free registration for a child. Registration closes on December 21.

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

Donna gave Elena and Amanda access to the registration. Karen will post and email the flyer tomorrow. We have teacher and student volunteers. This includes 15 juniors and seniors who are all CPR-certified. Rob has a friend who worked at Bright Horizons. He asked for any special needs lesson plans to send to us.

NJ Devils Township Program: Thursday, January 29, 7:00 pm, Prudential Center

We can sell up to 48 tickets. We have to pay for the school bus driver's ticket. The cost is \$50 per ticket. Donna will start promoting on Facebook and through email.

Tiny Soccer Program: Saturdays, February 21 through March 21, 9:30 - 10:30 am

The flyer for the zoom interest meeting has been posted and emailed. Jenny said the posts have received a lot of "likes." Do we need to set a cap for registrants? Maybe 20 or 25. We will wait to see how many come to the zoom meeting on Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 pm. After the meeting, we will post a registration flyer.

East Spotswood Park: Everything is set to go. The project will begin in the Spring. The first step is a site visit.

Michael Road Park: Amanda and Rob said there is a hole forming under the swings. We will contact DPW. Everyone said the park needs maintenance. We can't focus on setting up a registration system for the pavilion right now.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parade of Lights: Angela said she's brought up this idea for years. There would be a parade of cars with lights. We could combine with the Tree Lighting event.

Cookies Exchange: Angela said we could create platters of cookies for military families. Last year, they did it with the VFW, and 202 families received cookies. Donna said it's too late to execute this idea this year. We should think of new events and programs four to five months in advance.

Polar Bear Plunge: Rob brought this up and said we could form a Spotswood Rec. team. It's the last Saturday in February. Donna said we'd need to ask the Risk Manager about this..

Next meeting: December 10

Adjournment: 8:08 pm. Motion to adjourn by Amanda. Seconded by Jim.

Submitted by Karen Masucci on November 19, 2025