

BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON
PRIDE & CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: Wednesday – August 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Renee Gioiello at 7:03 PM. The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Secretary. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairperson Renee Gioiello.

ATTENDANCE:

Barbara Baumann	Renee Gioiello	Brian Martin	Wayne Martin	Nancy Peterson
Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present

Also in Attendance: Mayor Marshall

Recording of Hours since June 25, 2025:

Barbara Baumann	Renee Gioiello	Brian Martin	Wayne Martin	Nancy Peterson
Absent	5		12	6

Approval of June 25, 2025 meeting minutes.

Ms. Peterson made a motion to approve the June 25, 2025 minutes; the motion was second by Mr. Wayne Martin; all in favor, none opposed.

Old Business:

The committee found the summer concert series to be both excellent and highly successful. Moving to a new venue proved to be a smart choice that boosted audience numbers. The series drew roughly 200 attendees overall, including one particularly well-attended evening with 86-87 people. Weather disrupted one performance due to a storm.

The concerts proved financially beneficial for the pantry, raising about \$700 from a single show and close to \$2,000 when combined with TBA events. The diverse lineup of bands all delivered strong performances, contributing to the series' overall success.

New Business:

Halloween: The committee discussed organizing a pumpkin carving event this year, drawing inspiration from New York's Jack O'Lantern festival. The proposal would integrate the event into Mischief Night at the baseball field, creating a comprehensive family-oriented Halloween community gathering featuring a bonfire, games, and a pumpkin display. Families would bring pre-carved pumpkins illuminated with battery-operated candles for safety to showcase their creations. The committee considered hiring artistic carvers and utilizing borrowed church tables, existing Halloween music equipment, and newly acquired

smoke machines for atmosphere. The ball field location was preferred over the church area for safety reasons, and the stage could be decorated to enhance the festive setting.

Plans include collaborating with the Historical Society for an Ebenezer presentation, potentially having the character tell ghost stories and local history on stage, building on their previous successful historical walk collaboration. The committee will create promotional flyers for schools and the community, utilize Facebook outreach, and contact local partners for support.

Local businesses may donate items, and the event could include costume elements, candy giveaways, and a faux cemetery setup for the school. However, concerns remain about bonfire safety at the ball field and the need for additional lighting from sources like Mathis Construction to address the venue's limited illumination.

Scarecrow: The committee discussed participating in a scarecrow contest, drawing inspiration from New Gretna homeowners who participate in a similar contest. The plan includes assembling and displaying a scarecrow, announcing it during a council meeting, and encouraging business participation to bring the community together without requiring a formal event structure.

The implementation strategy involves using the trailer on borough property to display the scarecrows and publicizing the borough's participation to encourage community involvement. Ideas include moving a stage to the park at the intersection of Route 9 and Green Street for maximum visibility, creating scarecrows with a saxophone band theme, and obtaining county permission. Alternative locations include borough property near Great Bay and Route 9, though the intersection is preferred for its visibility.

Ye Olde Christmas:

The committee awaits the county's decision on Christmas tree replacement, with TBA offering financial support. A new 4x4 stage has been constructed for Santa's light ceremony, featuring planned cartoon reindeer decorations.

Horse and carriage services are being arranged again, while Mr. DeFrancia handles carol preparations. Community caroling may include the Presbyterian Church choir for an inclusive, free celebration.

A train ride addition is under consideration from Route 9 to Santa's location on Water Street, requiring street closures and police assistance. However, turnaround logistics present challenges, with alternatives including the rear parking lot or Retro Fitness lot.

Earlier volunteer recruitment is prioritized for trail management and carriage operations.

The Ye Olde Christmas & Craft Show requires vendor analysis before next year's planning, with December 5th as a potential date. A smaller lighthouse vendor market could accommodate ten participants, and Historical Society collaboration on various initiatives is planned.

Members Forum:

None.

Public Forum:

No public forum.

Approval of Secretary Services.

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		Barbara Baumann				X
		Renee Gioiello	X			
	X	Brian Martin	X			
		Wayne Martin	X			
X		Nancy Peterson	X			

Adjournment – Chairman at 8:19 PM

Motion by Mr. Brian Martin, second by Mr. Wayne Martin; all in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted:

Savannah Beaulieu,

Secretary