

BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON
PRIDE & CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: Wednesday – September 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Martin at 7:00 PM. The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Secretary. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Brian Martin.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Also in Attendance: Mayor Marshall

Recording of Hours since August 27, 2025:

Barbara Baumann	Renee Gioiello	Brian Martin	Wayne Martin	Nancy Peterson
15	10	12	25	8

Approval of August 27, 2025 meeting minutes.

Ms. Gioiello made a motion to approve the August 27, 2025 minutes; the motion was second by Ms. Peterson; all in favor, none opposed.

Old Business:

The committee announced that Penny Hughes from the Tuckerton Food Pantry sent a letter thanking the committee for the donation. Both the Sandpaper and Tuckerton Leader published articles about the Pride and Celebration Concerts as well as the Tuckerton beach concerts, noting that over \$2,000 was raised for the food pantry. There was a suggestion to introduce the article at a council meeting, and it will be included under committee reports at the next meeting. Regarding letters to the bands that performed this summer, Brian read the draft of the thank you letters to the bands to the committee. The letter will be sent to all bands.

New Business:

Halloween:

The poster for the October 30th Halloween event at the Ball Field has been created. The event includes a pumpkin carving contest where attendees bring their own carved pumpkins to be displayed on stage for a chance to win prizes, including Halloween trophies and candy canes. The Tuckerton Historical Society will have historical figures telling tales, with Horace presenting ghost stories, Ernie portraying ghosts of prominent locals, and Sean, a Quaker historian, talking about history.

For the pumpkin carving contest, the committee will supply battery-powered candles. People can register via email if they plan to bring a pumpkin, though registration is only for pumpkin entries, not general attendees.

The poster will be distributed to Tuckerton Elementary and through social media, with a line about email registration added before circulation. It will also be sent to the Historical Society for approval, and the Historical Society will have a booth at the Duck and Decoy show where they can display the poster.

For stage setup, Councilman Frank D'Amore was contacted to coordinate field availability. Mr. Brian Peterson will put up two large inflatable gargoyles at the entrance and set up decorations on either side of the stage, likely on Thursday. A fog machine will be available, and attendees are welcome to come dressed up. Tables will be set up for pumpkin display.

Ye Olde Christmas:

The committee decide that December 6th will be upcoming Christmas activities and other events. Several festive activities were planned for the holiday season, including a live Nativity at the Methodist Church from 2 to 4 PM, Santa Claus at the old borough hall on South Green Street from 3 to 6 PM, and horse and carriage rides departing from the old borough hall and traveling to Tuckerton Elementary School before returning, also running from 3 to 6 PM. Mr. DeFrancia from Pinelands was arranging for approximately 30 Dickens characters to sing five early 1900s English Christmas carols in groups throughout the area.

Since the Dickens characters group was previously located at the Grist Mill, which is unavailable this year, organizers explored using Stuart's Root Beer as a warming and dining location for the characters. The mayor was asked to contact Stuart's to arrange this, with the committee covering the costs. The Parker Town Fire Company was consulted about allowing the event to use their truck for lighting at Stewarts parking lot as in previous years, which is essential for the tree lighting setup. Corliss was confirmed to participate again without charging a fee, and Jill D. Felice offered the Sea Haven Singers to perform from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, with a half-hour performance outside the live Nativity and a half-hour inside the church.

Looking ahead to the Fourth of July celebration, the fireworks committee is planning to spend \$30,000 on fireworks for the 250th anniversary, compared to the typical budget of \$18,000. Pine Shores has been coordinating a calendar with events and is interested in collaborating with Porch Fest. The parade will run from 10 AM to 11 AM with Route 9 closed during this time, and fireworks scheduled for around 9:15 PM.

Other upcoming events include Halloween, which is being moved to the baseball field behind Bay Avenue, as well as Easter and Ye Olde Christmas. Since Easter falls on April 5th next year, which is early, there's a suggestion to hold an Easter egg hunt at the ball field. Ye Olde Christmas has vendor issues due to the bank-owned parking lot behind the gallery only being open on Saturdays. For the 250th anniversary, organizers looked to the 1976 bicentennial celebration and identified Parkertown hall as better suited for a similar event.

The art center is planning to expand its presence by opening more frequently. One speaker owns a 10-foot-high Christmas pyramid they would like to display at the art center, and there is room in the grass between the funeral home and the art center for it. The gallery is investigating getting a large "open" flag to display out front to attract more visitors, and the website needs to be updated with events. People are encouraged to contact B. Martin to add events to the calendar.

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