

**BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON PRIDE &
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: Wednesday – November 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 October 22, 2025:

Barbara Baumann	Renee Gioiello	Brian Martin	Wayne Martin	Nancy Peterson
1	4	20	4	2

Approval of October 22, 2025 meeting minutes.

Ms. Gioiello made a motion to approve the October 22, 2025 minutes; the motion was second by Ms. Peterson; Mr. Brian Martin abstained.

Old Business:

The commission discussed scheduling for the summer concert series. A member reported receiving inquiries regarding performance dates. It was determined that July 10th would serve as the opening concert date, with July 3rd being avoided due to the Independence Day holiday. A six-week series would follow the initial performance. Thank you letters had been distributed to previous participants, and positive responses were received in return.

New Business:

The commission's horse and carriage provider reported that their horse had passed away. The

provider was training two new horses but was not comfortable using them for the December 6th event due to safety concerns with children, with service tentatively scheduled for next year. Party Crashers, the train ride provider, had not responded to inquiries. Efforts were made to contact other known providers, but most were already booked. The commission acknowledged being too close to the event date to secure alternatives and decided to proceed with advertising without horse or train rides.

The December 6th Christmas event schedule was finalized with activities throughout the day, including the Seaport Stitchers at 10 AM, the Emporium operating from 10 AM to 7:30 PM with a gift basket giveaway, Historical Society clam chowder from 2 to 4 PM at the Friends Meeting House, Pine Shores Art Association open house, Presbyterian Church Nativity display from 2 to 4 PM and 5 to 6 PM with a break for the Seahaven Singers concert at 4 PM, Santa from 3 to 6 PM at Tuckerton Hall with Boy Scouts selling holiday crafts nearby, live nativity from 3 to 5 PM, and tree lighting at 7 PM.

The Methodist Church agreed to serve as home base for Dickens characters, providing pizza and warm-up space. Approximately 25 children from the Dickens program would perform four songs at the Methodist Church, followed by the live nativity. Stewart's agreed to close early to free parking lot space. Discussion occurred about Parkertown fire truck placement in the H&R Block parking area.

Two Salvation Army kettles would be deployed with collection hours from noon to 5 PM in one-hour shifts. One would be stationed at the church, and the second at the Emporium and Gristmill corner location. Volunteers signed up for various shifts, and equipment was confirmed available in storage.

The gingerbread man sign was completed with a new base. Various signs needed updating for dates and event information, with installation planned for the following Tuesday or Wednesday. The reindeer display in front of Paradise Cove had been refurbished. Santa's mailbox installation was confirmed.

The commission received approval to use Tuckerton Elementary School facilities if transportation became available for rides.

For future planning, a synthetic ice skating rink was proposed as a potential attraction, requiring paid admission and management by an outside company. Suggested locations included the Presbyterian Church parking area or Tip Seaman Park. A potential partnership with the Chamber of Commerce was discussed.

Members Forum:

Mr. Brian Martin explained that fireworks were confirmed for New Year's Day over the lake. The Fourth of July fireworks budget was set for both events by the Pinelands Fourth of July Commission. The commission noted that only two municipalities in Ocean County held fireworks on the actual Fourth of July in the previous year, with Tuckerton being one of them and Jackson's Great Adventure being the other. Last year's show ran 17 minutes of continuous

fireworks. The planned show for the upcoming year would be approximately 25 minutes of non-stop fireworks with no pauses between displays.

The Pinelands Fourth of July Commission was working with the county fire marshal to potentially use four-inch shells that create patterns, designs, and patriotic color combinations. Current regulations prevent their use due to a pavilion structure near Tip Seaman Park being within the required safety distance from the launch site. To use the larger shells, fireworks would need to be launched from a platform on the lake, requiring electronic remote operation from shore rather than manual firing. Some discussion occurred about temporarily relocating the pavilion structure, though no concrete plans were made. Members noted that the previous Fourth of July event received widespread applause from attendees present at the lake, with consensus that Tuckerton produces one of the best municipal fireworks displays available.

Mr. Brian Martin informed the commission that Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin, the Environmental Chairperson, had reached out to him following the most recent council meeting to express her desire to become involved in organizing the 2026 Arbor Day event. The commission agreed to include her in the planning process once preparations commence.

Public Forum:

No public forum.

Approval of Secretary Services.

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

Adjournment – Chairman at 7:53 PM

Motion by Ms. Gioiello, second by Ms. Baumann; all in favor, none opposed.