

BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON PRIDE & CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES: Wednesday – March 25, 2026

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

Also in attendance were Mayor Marshall, Cynthia Coritz of the Tuckerton Historical Society, and Beth Garvin and Debbie McMunn of the Environmental Commission.

Approval of February 25, 2026 meeting minutes:

Ms. Gioiello made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 minutes; the motion was second by Ms. Baumann. It was so moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Easter Event Recap

The Easter egg hunt was reported to have gone well with a strong turnout of children who had a wonderful time. The candy supply was plentiful. Some fruit roll-ups did not fit inside the eggs but were distributed separately. A small number of eggs remained at the end of the event, which was considered a positive indicator that there was sufficient candy for all participants. The event was deemed a success overall.

Chair Martin opened to public forum to allow members of the Environmental Commission and Tuckerton Historical Society to participate in the Arbor Day discussion.

***Motion:** Chair Martin / **Second:** Ms. Gioiello / **Vote:** All in favor — Approved*

NEW BUSINESS

2. Arbor Day — Honoree Selection

The committee discussed who to honor at this year's Arbor Day ceremony. Names raised included Doris Mathisen, a longtime committee member and former councilwoman, and Russell and Mary Lou Mathis, longstanding community members with ties to the borough's historical society. The committee noted that Ms. Mathisen has historically declined recognition and would likely do the same again. The Mathis family was selected unanimously, with the committee emphasizing their long service to the community and noting that their advancing age made this a particularly timely recognition. The committee discussed inviting the Mathis family under the pretense of honoring their grandson in order to make the recognition a surprise. Doris Mathisen was noted as a strong candidate to be honored in a future year.

Motion: Ms. Gioiello / Second: Ms. Baumann / Vote: All in favor — Approved

3. Arbor Day — Program & Environmental Commission Involvement

Arbor Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 25. The evening is structured in two parts. From 6:00 to approximately 6:45 PM, elementary school students in grades one through three present their writing entries. The mayor introduces the students and assists with readings, winners receive ribbons, and Stewart's Root Beer provides free ice cream coupons to the winners. At 7:00 PM, the Arbor Day honoree ceremony takes place, featuring the unveiling of the honoree's name on the Tuckerton flag plaque at the municipal complex.

The Environmental Commission expressed interest in visiting Tuckerton Elementary School classrooms prior to Arbor Day to speak with students about environmental topics as a lead-in to the writing assignment. Chair Martin noted the school would likely be receptive to this idea, particularly given the committee's existing relationship with the school. Mayor Marshall agreed to reach out to Ann Lupo to explore the classroom visit. Chair Martin will research the Mathis family's community contributions and speak with their grandson to arrange the surprise ceremony.

4. Fourth of July — Parade & Fireworks

Chair Martin provided an update on plans for the Fourth of July, describing this year's celebration as the most ambitious in the borough's recent history. A barge has been donated, allowing the fireworks launch site to be moved approximately 20 to 25 feet into the lake. The fireworks budget is approximately 60 percent higher than any prior year. The rain date for fireworks is July 5th. The parade has no rain date due to Route 9 permit constraints.

Chair Martin expressed a desire to make this the largest parade Tuckerton has ever seen and discussed inviting additional participants, including the Parkertown Volunteer Fire Department, Paradise Cove Uplanders Association, the Tuckerton Historical Society, and local businesses. The Pinelands Fourth of July Fireworks Committee is also considering participating in the parade for the first time, potentially with donation buckets. A parade application form will be posted on the borough website and Facebook page. Chair Martin also noted that Tip Seaman Park will be open to foot traffic on the Fourth but not to vehicle access, with pedestrians permitted on the left side of the main entrance.

5. Revolutionary New Jersey / 250th Anniversary

Chair Martin reviewed the Revolutionary New Jersey program at revnj.org, a state initiative providing grant funding to municipalities participating in the 250th anniversary of American independence. The borough already holds an existing resolution establishing its participation, which can be uploaded with a program application for grant review. The funding is oriented toward educational programs, historical presentations, reenactments, art commissions, and diversity and inclusion initiatives rather than street decoration. One notable opportunity is a community art competition in which residents submit artwork, the community votes, and the winner is commissioned by the state to create a permanent public art installation. Chair Martin noted this could align well with a long-standing proposal by Doris Mathisen for a town clock. The Tuckerton Seaport may also be eligible for grants related to Lenape history displays. Chair Martin will share the virtual handbook with the Seaport and Historical Society.

The Tuckerton Historical Society, represented by Cynthia, expressed interest in participating and shared their own 250th-related plans. The Society is developing a commemorative flag featuring historical borough imagery, to be sold in two sizes including a smaller boat flag size, with pricing research currently underway. A program at Little Borough Hall featuring Ebenezer Tucker is tentatively planned for the second Saturday in June to align with the Society's regular lecture schedule. The Historical Society will also participate in the yard sale.

6. Main Street Decorations

The committee discussed decorating Main Street with American flags or themed banners for the 250th anniversary. The lanterns along Main Street have cross-bars suitable for hanging banners, and the committee discussed starting with a smaller number of banners and adding more in future years. Ms. Gioiello is pursuing pricing on large decorative bows from a local crafter for the lamp posts, with the idea of starting by placing them on every other lamp post to keep initial costs manageable.

7. Summer Concerts

The summer concert schedule is set, with the first concert on July 11th. The mobile stage trailer, currently on loan from the Methodist Church, will be returned to the church for use in their Fourth of July parade float and retrieved by approximately July 9th or 10th in time for the first concert. The committee voted not to renew the contract with prior performer, whose requested rate increased to between \$700 and \$750. A possible open performance night featuring local and emerging artists is under consideration for the open date on July 31st.

8. Old Homes Day / Chamber of Commerce Collaboration

The newly formed Tuckerton Chamber of Commerce is exploring an Old Homes Day or Founders Day-style community festival potentially held at Tip Seaman Park, similar in spirit to Little Egg Harbor's Fall Fest. Proposed elements include a baby and toddler contest, a pie eating contest, a best beard contest sponsored by a local barbershop, and various business-sponsored activities. This event would be separate from the Fourth of July festivities.

MEMBER FORUM: None.

PUBLIC FORUM: Closed public forum

***Motion:** Chair Martin / **Second:** Ms. Gioiello / **Vote:** All in favor — Approved*

Approval to pay \$75.00 to Secretary Savannah Beaulieu for secretarial services for the month of March 2026.

***Motion:** Ms. Gioiello / **Second:** Ms. Peterson / **Vote:** All in favor — Approved*

Adjournment – Chairman at 8:06 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,
Savannah Beaulieu
Secretary