

**Kent Park and Recreation  
Halloween Bash Subcommittee  
Special Meeting Minutes Oct. 2, 2020**

**Present:** Darlene Brady, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, Connie Manes, Mike Perkins, director Lesly Ferris.

Mrs. Harrington called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of Sept. 29, 2020 Special Meeting:** Mrs. Brady made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 29, 2020 special meeting. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Discussion of 2020 Halloween Activities:** The subcommittee continued its discussion of Halloween activities. Ms. Ferris shared via email the Centers for Disease Control and the state Department of Public Health guidelines for Halloween activities (attached).

Litchfield fire departments are having a drive-by parade and giving out candy along a route the day before Halloween. Sharon Audubon is sponsoring a jack-o-lantern display over several days before and past Halloween.

Mrs. Harrington looked into possible sites for a haunted walk or drive through. There are construction materials at the back of the Kent Green, and she is waiting to hear from Club Getaway. Mrs. Harrington also is waiting to hear if the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association area at Sloane Stanley Museum could be used. Park and Rec has enough decorations for a few stations and could invite businesses and groups to set up their own scare stations. Mrs. Harrington is hoping for ten stations. Mrs. Manes said the Kent Land Trust would create a station. This event could take place the weekend before or even after Halloween.

There was discussion about Park and Rec's tradition of handing out glow necklaces and if this would happen. Also, is it Park and Rec's and/or the subcommittee's responsibility for putting out information this year to the community about trick-or-treating? This could help let the community know the status of trick-or-treating, that everyone's personal decision would be respected. Ms. Manes said she is not sure it's a concern of Park and Recreation's about what goes on in Town on Halloween. Ms. Ferris has spoken with the resident trooper about the status of handing out glow necklaces. A letter that states how Park and Rec has opted to handle Halloween could be put out through Kent Center School. Ms. Ferris would write something. Mrs. Harrington suggested ordering the usual number of glow necklaces.

**Next Subcommittee Meeting Date:** The subcommittee agreed to meet Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Lesly Ferris  
Director

*Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to the minutes from ensuing meeting for any changes and/or corrections.*

As many people in the United States begin to plan for fall and winter holiday celebrations, CDC offers the following considerations to help protect individuals, their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19. These considerations are meant to supplement—**not replace**—any [state, local, territorial](#), or [tribal](#) health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which holiday gatherings must comply. When planning to host a holiday celebration, you should assess current COVID-19 levels in your community to determine whether to postpone, cancel, or limit the number of attendees.

### **General considerations for fall and winter holidays**

[Fall and winter celebrations](#), such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Halloween, Día de los Muertos, Navratri, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and New Year's, typically include large gatherings of families and friends, crowded parties, and travel that may put people at increased risk for COVID-19.

### Halloween

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

### Lower risk activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

### Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
  - If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
  - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
  - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
  - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
  - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
  - Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on [hosting gatherings or cook-outs](#).

#### Higher risk activities

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors

- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Using [alcohol or drugs](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- Traveling to a [rural](#) fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

## Connecticut Halloween Guidance

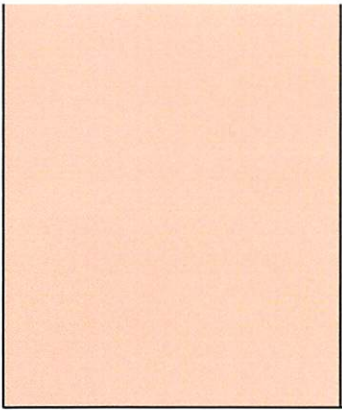
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires all of us to take steps to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe and healthy: wear our masks, wash our hands frequently, and maintain social distancing. As a result, we will need to celebrate many fall traditions differently this year, including Halloween. Traditional Halloween activities carry a high risk for spreading COVID-19, but we can reduce that risk significantly by organizing and participating in fun, lower or moderate risk alternatives. The holiday may look different this year, but the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) believes we can still enjoy a happy (and healthy) Halloween. The CT DPH recommends that everyone planning to participate in Halloween activities this year review the [guidance](#) recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That guidance describes “lower” “moderate” and “higher” risk activities. DPH recommends that Connecticut residents avoid higher risk Halloween traditions and focus celebrations on the lower and moderate risk activities. The ability to maintain social distancing and follow face covering rules is especially important when participating in Halloween activities. In addition, please refrain from leaving your home for any Halloween activity and do not pass out Halloween candy if you are ill or have traveled to one of the states listed on the [Connecticut travel advisory](#) between October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup> (i.e. 14 days before Halloween). In this case you should be following the testing and self-quarantining guidelines, per [Executive Order No. 9C](#). CDC guidance and safety tips are summarized below, along with additional considerations for restaurants and colleges and Universities.

PARTIES AND EVENTS	
Events to consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In lieu of in-person house parties, host virtual Halloween events, e.g. virtual costume contests.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host drive-by Halloween events, e.g. neighborhood or town-based house decorating</li></ul>

## TRICK-OR-TREATING

### Recommendations for Halloween 2020

- Traditional trick-or-treating is a high risk activity. Instead, the CDC and CT DPH recommends participating in one-way trick-or-treating where goodie bags or a large bowl of candy are placed outside of your home for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance.
- If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- For people who choose to hand out candy:
  - Before you answer the door, make sure your face covering is in place over your nose and mouth, wash or sanitize your hands before answering door.
  - Remain six feet from the Trick-or-Treater.
  - Place the candy inside the child's bag for them instead of having them take it from the bowl themselves.
- Homes providing candy may set up hand sanitizer stations outside or parents/guardians can pack a travel bottle of their own.
- Parents/guardians should limit the number of homes their children visit.
- It is not recommended to trick-or-treat with people outside of your household.
- Remain six feet away from people outside your household at all times.

- 
- All trick-or-treating participants should wear a mask or face covering while outside at all times.
  - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth or surgical mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and does not leave gaps around the face.
  - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth or surgical mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
  - Do not wear a costume rubber mask over another face covering of any kind.