

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: February 6, 2009

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Candice Burke, Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski, Phil Maida,
Rich Rehm, Paul Wild, A. J. Garito, Judy Laufer

Absent: Leonar Lesta

Township Liaison Present: Ken Florek

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Valenti at 7:30 p.m.

The Committee approved the minutes from January 7, 2009

The Treasurer's Report was read, and attached to the agenda for each committee member per their request.

Mr. Hennessy noted the double sided copies provided of the handouts for the meeting, as an effort to conserve paper. He then asked Barbara to explain how our efforts will expand. Barbara asked each member to provide their email address, going forward all documents including the agenda will be sent via email to the committee. Each member will be responsible for printing out the agenda if desired and any other materials necessary prior to the monthly meetings.

Old Business

I. Bucks Mill Park

The installation of the playground has been completed. Mr. Hennessy has contracted Whirl Construction to install curbing with wood chips around the playground equipment.

II. Schlesinger Preserve

Mr. Hennessy reported after speaking to the bridge company and checking the funding there is enough money in the Schlesinger fund to cover the costs for the bridge. The bridge installation should be completed late Spring/early Summer.

III. Recreation Building

Mr. Hennessy reported he received specifications and costs for a security system. The Recreation Administration Building will be obtaining a camera at the side door with both visual and sound capabilities; this would be used to view the visitors prior to allowing them entry into the building. In addition, a security system similar to Township Hall will also be installed. Mr. Hennessy continued stating the phone system will also receive upgrades; currently the office has two telephone lines. The 2nd line also serves as the fax line. Outgoing calls are made on the 2nd line, when callers try calling back the line reflects a fax machine. The new system will have separate voice and data lines and separate voicemail system for the Director and Administrative Assistant. Other improvements include flying the flag in the front of the building and a new coat rack.

IV. Ski Trip

Saturday, February 7 is the Teen Ski Trip to Mountain Creek. To date, Mr. Hennessy stated we have seven registrants paid, however the program needs at least ten more registered to run the trip, given the bus fee and Supervisor expenses. The deadline to sign up was Feb. 1; we will wait till tomorrow before cancelling the trip.

Members Email – this item was discussed previously

New Business

I. Adopt a Park

Mr. Hennessy asked for input to the letter and Park assignments mailed earlier in the month. Mr. Hennessy explained that the stewardship program provides an opportunity for committee members to be involved, to provide a different perspective and to share ideas for Park/Preserve improvements. Each member has been assigned a Park based upon their residence. Each member would walk the Park/Preserve and provide comments at the monthly meetings. Mr. Wolf had walked the Obre Road Preserve and made notes about the lack of parking. Mr. Piotrowski commented with Mr. Hennessy being a Full Time Director he thought he would

Colts Neck Recreation Committee Minutes – February 6, 2009

be monitoring the Parks throughout the Township. Mr. Hennessy assured Mr. Piotrowski that he does visit the Parks on a regular basis. He then asked the committee for input to the concept of being Stewards to the Parks. Mr. Baker walked Township Park with his wife and found the trail and ground to be very wet and “mushy”. He also encountered, while walking the Fit Trail a large hole near the Blind Garden. Mr. Maida commented the ground hogs have invaded that area behind the First Aid Building too. Mr. Hennessy reported the signs at Township Park Fit Trail will be changed to read no bicycles or horses allowed program. Mr. Valenti observed Big Brook Preserve and noted garbage on the Hillsdale side. He recommended the area would need a good Spring clean up. Ms. Burke suggested the possibility of getting the Scouts to assist? Perhaps an Earth Day event cleaning up the Town Parks. Ms. Laufer mentioned the ROTC group are always looking for project such as clean ups. Mr. Valente also added most of the recent bridges are very rickety and old. Mr. Hennessy concurred the bridges in poor condition should be removed. He went on to add, the key of the Stewardship is to become involved as a committee, which lends to sharing such ideas for improvements. Mr. Garito stated the septic system in at Laird Road and test would be done in March to stabilize the system in order for it to be ready for Opening Day in April. The Sports Foundation presented their desire for maintenance at all fields. They also proposed the use of paid advertising at the baseball fields, Mr. Florek noted the proposal was well received by the Township Committee and the signs would be uniform and consider in terms of color and style.

II. Community Center – Mr. Hennessy, in speaking with Mr. Thompson of Public Works agreed the telephone connection used by the Colts Neck Fair from the Pole to the Community Center be rewired, rather than utilize the 2008 wiring that was placed above ground. Mr. Hennessy stated telephone service will be completed toward the end of February/March as vendors have already been contacting Township Hall and our office for Fair information. The Community Center overhangs outside of the building are unfinished. Mr. Hennessy reported several report of bird nesting above and disturbing the bench area below. Mr. Hennessy was informed by Mr. Barbagallo, Mr. Orgo has similar materials used in the construction of the Community Center he will donate to the project, the Township would be responsible for the installation costs. All overhangs would then become closed off and prevent birds from nesting.

III. 2009 Operation and Capital Budgets – budget meetings will take place the late part of February, dates to review the Recreation and Park budgets have not been determined. Mr. Hennessy will communicate those dates and times to the committee. All are welcome to attend and support the budget needs of the Department.

IV. Polo – Mr. Goodwin has invited the Recreation Committee to attend a Polo match. Please contact him to reserve a space for the event. Match dates: May 31, June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28 all matches starting at 3 PM.

V. Community Band – Mr. Hennessy met with the four Conductors and the major concern is lighting at the High School. He spoke to Jeannette Bruno the extra-curricular activity Director to find out what could be done to improve the situations. There is a possibility of a paid student to run the lighting during dress rehearsals and concerts. Apparently the lack of professional lighting has been an issue in the past, however recently the High School installed a new lighting system. Mr. Hennessey is working with Ms. Bruno to resolve the lighting and to also encourage opportunities for the school to be involved in community activities. Ms. Laufer mentioned the school gives “passport” to all Senior Citizens which allows them to attend concerts, plays and other activities at the school free of charge. A reminder the next concert is February 12, 2009.

VI. Spring Programs – the past week during the Senior citizen meeting, Mr. Hennessy was in attendance and offered an exercise program for Seniors Qui Gong. This is similar to Tai Chi classes. The cost will be minimal to participate in the program. He asked Seniors Citizens to contact the office if they are interested in participating in the class. Mr. Hennessy would like to expand programs for Seniors in the Community. Mr. Wild asked if Wii programs would be used? Discussion continued about the benefits of activity for Seniors. Mr. Valenti inquired about Teen programs? Mr. Garito commented if kids are not involved in sports, there are not many activities for Teens in Towns.

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 6, 2009**

VII. Summer Programs – Mr. Hennessy stated the Colts Neck Board of Education donated a school bus to Recreation and Parks. Mr. Thompson of Public Works is researching costs to paint the bus prior to use. Ms. Laufer asked if the Seniors could share the bus for some of their local trips. Mr. Hennessy stated certainly, the bus will be shared. Monmouth County Parks offers many nature related programs for children, Mr. Hennessy noted he will be looking to add some of these programs to this years' summer day camp, along with a Puppet Theater Show. He added mid February letters will be mailed to the 2008 Day Camp Staff inviting staff to return for the 2009 season.

Miscellaneous

In walking her assigned Park, Ms. Burke noticed the karate equipment was not in the Community Center? Mr. Hennessy explained the program had few registrants and the Instructor decided to discontinue the program. Mr. Maida asked if the Department is searching for another Karate Instructor, Mr. Hennessy yes, we are looking for another Karate Instructor for the Spring

Memorial Day Parade - Mr. Baker reviewed the 2008 Line of March assignments and revisions were made for 2009. Discussion followed to include some new items to the event. Ideas discussed included floats, volunteers dressing in Recreation program outfits to reflect the many programs offered by the department. Post 2008 parade comments were reviewed, Ms. Burke will add to the Bicycle contest poster "scooters are excluded". Improvement should also be made in the drop off areas where children are dropped off at the end of the parade. Ms. Burke reminded the committee the banner from last year was damaged and the company did refund the payment by voiding the check. Another banner will be made for this year's parade. The location is a concern as last year's location is now missing a telephone pole to hang the banner. It was suggested to hang the banner on Rt. 537 near Dorbrook Park. Mr. Hennessy agreed to the suggestion of involving the Colts Neck Business Association participate in the parade.

Mr. Florek discussed the acquisition of property at Clover Hill Rd. and Rt. 520. The Township is on negotiations with the land owner. He added the Colts Neck Sports Foundation presented a proposal for signs to be placed on outfield fencing by businesses. Advertisers will be able to purchase a sign for \$1,000. Monies would be used for field maintenance. Mr. Florek supports the proposal and noted the signs would be uniform and tastefully constructed. He went on to say the Sports Foundation is also looking into a wheel irrigation device for Five Point Park. The device would be set up, rotated as needed and maintained by Public Works.

Ms. Laufer reported the Senior Citizen's met today. There was a delay due to the weather; she asked if the reverse 911 could be used for future notifications for meeting delays? Mr. Maida stated the Police have stated the reverse 911 system will be used for emergencies only. Ms. Laufer mentioned the upcoming trips scheduled and activities. She reminded the committee she will continue as Liaison.

Mr. Hennessy passed out the Master Plan document and requested feedback for the March meetings.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 6, 2009**

Memorial Day Items for 2009

1. Mr. Piotrowski – difficult to drop off the girl scouts from the float, there was no room to unload the girls; Mom's had to be there before each girl was let off the float.
2. The float behind Mr. Piotrowski did not know where to deliver the trailer. Dr. Nolan stated that trailer was supposed to be dropped at Bucks Mill's block building.
3. All agreed flags distributed prior to the parade start should continue.
4. Confusion with the Fire Chief in terms of the line up and use of sirens and line up?
5. Suggested someone stand at the next corner after the parade start with the lineup chart to ensure groups are in line accordingly. (i.e. clown behind the Veterans;)
6. Bike Contest – great turnout; description for next year “exclude scooters?” Mr. Wolf – no grades on awards; Ms. Burke school participation. Need to be flexible with trophies.
7. Mr. Piotrowski – too many scooters etc. weaving in and out of parade vehicles. Difficult to see around antique vehicles.
8. Ms. Lesta suggested – laminate cards with parade details.
9. Mr. Wolf suggested a sign in sheet for each group.
10. Attendance was good, but not as well attended as committee hoped. Continue with advertising the parade.
11. Mayor Hennessy received excellent feedback from several residents in town for a great parade, and gave kudos to the Department of Recreation and Parks for sending out “thank you” notes promptly to parade participants.