

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 3, 2010**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: February 4, 2010**

Attendees: Frank Baker, Joe Mancino, Rich Rehm, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Leonor Lesta, Brian McNally, Paul Wild

Absent: A.J. Garito, Candice Burke

Township Liaison: Mike Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Valenti at 7:00 p.m.

The Committee approved the January meeting minutes

The Treasurer's Report was read

Old Business

Budget 2010 – Mr. Hennessy reported budget meetings are scheduled for the end of February and encouraged the members of the committee to attend these sessions. Meeting dates and times will be emailed to the committee later this month. Mr. Pitrowski mentioned he attends each year.

Fees for Facilities - Mr. Hennessy has been gathering facility fee information from surrounding townships. He also met with the Sports Foundation this week and it seems they will be using all the fields during the Spring months. The implementation of fees will probably not be until the summer months. Mr. McNally asked if 100% of the fields will be used during Spring. Mr. Hennessy said there are fields set aside for green acres. He added Red Bank Catholic has been using our fields for practice for years, that will continue as long as the times they request are not impacting the Sports Foundation. Mr. Mancino noted there was an article about Holmdel's facility fee system in the Sunday Asbury Park Press. Mr. Hennessy shared the article was prompted, by him meeting with Ms. Voorhees, Holmdel's Recreation Director and asking if teams without Holmdel residents have been utilizing the fields. The discussion led to percentages of team members who are residents vs. non residents and how to define charging fees. He also stated the article implied Holmdel did not have a fee policy in place, when in fact Holmdel has had a fee policy in place. Mr. Hennessy also spoke to the Director of Recreation from Long Branch who also has a fee policy in place. Mr. Hennessy said they include a permit with fee for "seasons". This would require little to no monitoring and he felt this was a very attractive option for Colts Neck. Mr. Mancini concurred the seasonal fee option seemed like a good idea.

Wednesday Mr. Hennessy attended an Inclusion Training session at Centra State Medical Center. The training was well worth the time, as he now has resources to contact should it involve our summer day camp

New Business

Stewards of the Park - In her absence, Ms. Burke provided Mr. Hennessy a report via email of Bucks Mill Park. Garbage cans and garbage were blowing around the park; she suggested we anchor all garbage receptacles. There was also a broken sign. Mr. Hennessy already shared the suggestion with the Department of Public Works to anchor the garbage cans to prevent garbage from blowing around the park. When asked if anyone had additional reports. Mr. Hennessy explained to Mr. McNally Stewards are requested to walk their assigned park once a month and report back to the committee on their findings. Mr. Rehm stated a suggestion was made to remove the fencing at Freer Preserve which has been impacted by vandals several times. However, after viewing the area with the steep slopes the fencing is needed to prevent someone falling into those slopes. Mr. Hennessy explained not only did the vandals destroy the parts of the fencing they also ripped up signs and destroyed a bench. Mr. Hennessy stated Public Works makes signs for the township and Ken Olson has already suggested Mr. Hennessy provide new ideas for signage for the parks. Ms. Lesta suggested replacing the fencing with big boulders at Freer Preserve. Mr. Pitrowski suggested positioning a deer camera at the park. The cameras have a flash of a few seconds. The flash

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would scare the vandals away. Mr. Hennessy will discuss with his peers at Mondays Monmouth County Parks meeting.

February 11, Thursday is the next Colts Neck Community Band Concert, Mr. Hennessy stated. He explained currently there are 100 members and they will be auditioning quarterly for new members. Although most members are remaining in the band the conductors will still audition for potential openings. Mr. Hennessy stated one Community Band student (attended Colts Neck High School) was accepted to Tulane University to play in the marching band. Mr. Wild suggested if someone wanted to join the band and there were no openings maybe they could start an auxiliary band. Ms. Lesta noted Scott Brown became a music teacher and now works with the Community Band. Mr. Valenti asked how many conductors were in the band. Mr. Hennessy replied 3 conductors with 1 living in Colts Neck. At the end of May the band will be playing at the Fine Arts Center in Middletown and the band will be segmented based on the different instruments. He is also hoping to have a joint concert with Tim Mcloone's Holiday Express on December 2. Ms. Lesta suggested advertising events on 94.3 FM "The Point" radio station, they promote local events. Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee he is a member of the Principle's Advisory committee at Colts Neck High School and has negotiated with them to fund 50% of the monies for new risers for the band. The other 50% he hopes to fund from Recreation. The risers will be stored at the high school and used by other organizations from the school. Elevating the band with risers will provide a better quality sound. Ms. Lesta noted her school rents risers from other schools, perhaps we could rent the risers out to outside organizations.

Fossil Month - 32 of the best of the best Fossil displays from Conover Elementary will be on display at the Library. Each week the displays will change, Mr. Hennessy stated. Ms. Bontempo is the 4th grade teacher coordinating the event in the schools. A Paleontologist will be proving a Power Point presentation, along with some of his friends and their collections. Mr. Hennessy recently attended a lecture led by a Professor from Hofstra who spoke of the "strata" at Big Brook.

Garden for the Blind/Library Garden (FRHS STEP) – It was brought to the attention of Mr. Hennessy by Ms. Mansfield the Librarian the deterioration of the Children's garden. The garden has not been kept up and she cannot find anyone to take over the maintenance. The STEP program has several students interested in horticulture; hopefully they will be working to refurbish the children's garden and the blind garden.

Mr. Hennessy stated he will be getting another donated school bus saving up to \$8K a year by owning our own bus. He will need to find people to paint the bus as by law the color of the bus cannot be yellow. Volunteers completed the first bus painting. It is one of the items from the Recreation and Parks "wish list". Ms. Lesta suggested Mr. Hennessy publish his "wish list" for projects maybe someone will donate the time and paint. She suggested The Calendar under the "swap and shop" section. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if Mr. Bowden has the "wish list". Mr. Hennessy confirmed he does have the list.

Polo Permits - Colts Neck will be having Polo games from mid May to October (except July 4). Mr. Hennessy stated there are now 2 Polo teams in town. The original Polo team and Mr. Garber's team. Both will share the field at Bucks Mill Park.

Mr. Hennessy will be attending the Sports Foundation meeting on Monday.

Colts Neck Gallop will be held on May 15. This will be a combination of a 5K run/walk and 10K race. The 5K will take place at Bucks Mill Park and the 10K will begin at Township Hall. Mr. Hennessy said there were not many participants from Colts Neck in the past 10K events. Adding a 5K run/walk would include a greater population of residents to participate in the shorter distance. Proceeds from 5K will benefit the Sports Foundation and Pop Warner. Ms. Lesta suggested the events be advertised on the radio. Mr. Hennessy said with his recent involvement with the many Cross Country events at Bucks Mill, he will be sending out an email blast to approximate 30 schools inviting them to run their course as a race at Bucks Mill. He has also met with the Cedar Dr. Track Coach and promoted the event. There will also be a kiddie run, 50 yard dash, and 100 yard dash Mr. Hennessy added. He is researching sponsors for "goodie bags" for all finishers. Phil Hinck, his wife (both members of the Jersey Shore Running Club) and a time keeper are lined up to run the 10K. Mr. Hennessy is seeking the help of the committee to manage the registration process. He will also

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need assistance to identify the first 3 finishers for each age group for the 10K for the awards. Local boy scouts and girl scouts will also be invited to participate in the event.

Mr. Fitzgerald (Township Liaison for Sports Foundation) reported he and Jarrett Engle (Township Liaison for Pop Warner) are discussing cross efforts and purposes between the Pop Warner and Sports Foundation. They are trying to bring all concerns together. The Recreation Committee would serve as the “umbrella” for both groups specifically when discussing facility availability. Mr. Valenti mentioned in the past different groups were asked to come to a Recreation Committee meeting and provide an overview of their organization. The short overview gives an opportunity for the Committee to listen to concerns and help find possible solutions related to recreation and parks. Pop Warner was invited last year but were unable to attend, perhaps we should invite them to come and speak about their ideas to the Committee.

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Hennessy the outcome of the Snow Tubing trip and the Water Park trip. Mr. Hennessy stated both trips were cancelled due to the low number of registrants. He asked one of the parents if another timeframe would be better to offer the trips again. The parent explained there are too many conflicting events for teenagers. Mr. Hennessy removed the line item “teen trips” from the 2010 Recreation budget and will not seek funding for this item.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary