

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – June 3, 2009**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: June 3, 2009**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Leonor Lesta, Paul Wild, Phil Maida, Rich Rehm, Candice Burke, Dwight Wolf, Joe Mancino

Absent: A.J. Garito, Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Absent: Ken Florek

Also in Attendance: Judy Laufer

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

The Committee approved the minutes from May 6, 2009

The Treasurer's Report was read.

**Old Business**

Mr. Hennessy began discussion by asking for input related to the **Memorial Day Parade**. He stated he was approached by someone who had a gourmet ice cream business and would donate the ice cream. However, the day of the parade, there was no gourmet ice cream donation. Committee members provided feedback related to loud sirens from the fire engines during the parade, many spectators felt the sirens were used too often and were too loud. Mr. Hennessy stated he did speak to Chris Quincannon, Fire Chief, two days prior to the parade and both agreed the use of sirens would be limited. Mr. Maida commented an antique car jumped the line of march as his car was close to overheating. Mr. Hennessy noted next year the antique cars would line up along the First Aid building on Heritage Lane with the engines off, and avoid overheating. Mr. Maida stated it was the first time they ran out of ribbons due to the large number of participants in the bicycle contest. Noted for next year to purchase additional ribbons. Also noted for next year to publicize helmets must be worn for the contents and to ride in the parade. Motorized vehicles were not an issue this year, Mr. Hennessy did advise the police department to prevent all motorized vehicles (specifically scooters) from riding along the parade route. Ms. Burke noted a third golf cart was decorated and advertising solar energy. Mr. Valenti commented the Grand Marshalls received a very warm reception along the route. Ms. Lesta asked how will we get new signs next year for the Grand Marshalls? Mr. Hennessy stated we would have new signs created for next year. The signs identifying the Veteran's and the war they participated in, were an excellent addition to the parade. Mr. Baker inquired if any military vehicles participated? Mr. Hennessy stated although he received a positive reply that vehicles would be at the parade, they did not participate. He placed Mr. Winters in the front of the parade as a representative of military vehicles. The large flag was slightly damaged prior to the parade, Mr. Hennessey said there will be one at next year's parade. Mr. Valenti commented the parade disintegrated towards the cemetery? Discussion followed, the Trail Riders and other groups turned into Revolutionary Rd. A suggestion was made to have the police appear to signal the end of the parade route. A comment was made about the small amount of Sports Foundation participants, Ms. Burke added the email to march in the parade was not distributed until Friday evening. Next year perhaps an earlier advisement would encourage more participants. Mr. Wild suggested next year's advertisement include best viewing places. Ms. Lesta noted the Au Pairs group may want to march in the parade.

**Jr. Olympics** was well attended, with 15 CNHS Track team participating as mentors to the children who signed. Up. Mr. Hennessy added he has already asked the high school for track mentors for the September 13 10K road race.

**Five Point Park restorations** are for the most part completed. Mr. Hennessy shared photos of the delivery of the Kifco water reel unit with the committee. Mr. Neidermeyer, President of the Colts Neck Sports Foundation was also in attendance as well as two mechanics from the Department of Public Works. The soccer fields will be irrigated by the Kifco water reel, the baseball fields have irrigation in the outfields, Mr. Neidermeyer was so impressed with the results he contacted the Sports Foundation Board and received approval to implement irrigation in the baseball infields too. Mr. Wild asked who is responsible to maintain the

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water reel? Mr. Hennessy stated the Department of Public Works. There will also be a shed built to provide housing for the unit.

**Boy Scout Projects** Mr. Hennessy described the 3 current projects to be completed by individual Boy Scouts – Freer Preserve will be getting signage and steps. Ms. Burke asked if the split rail fence will be repaired too? Mr. Hennessy replied Public Works will repair the fence. Five Point Park – A scout will be extending a trail loop to toward Rt. 18, expanding an existing loop trail to a larger trail. Schlesinger Preserve – a scout will be refurbishing the elevated pathway/steps.

**Tennis Courts at Laird Road** will be repaired by fixing cracks and color.

**Steward's Reports** no one had any issues with their assigned park/preserve. All commented on the great job Mr. Maida's group did in cleaning up the cemetery area, it was lovely for the gravesite ceremony. Our Summer Program Guide was mailed this week, Mr. Hennessy reported, adding he interviewed approximately 90 children for **Day Camp** Counselor positions. Mr. Baker asked if Mr. Hennessy actually interviewed each candidate? Yes, he does along with 2 Supervisors and Assistant Supervisor. Mr. Hennessy will also be hiring 8 candidates for Counselor in Training positions. They will be in position for future years as older Counselors graduate college and move to other jobs. Ms. Lesta asked if the counselors can drive? Yes, most of the counselors do drive, replied Mr. Hennessy. He added that the camp will be in session on Fridays, the schools will remain open. (Prior discussion with the Superintendent resulted in a possibility of schools being closed on Fridays during summer months, making them unavailable for the day camps.) Mr. Hennessy is in the process of compiling day camp trips. He commented he'd like to engage the campers in educational and nature interests. Ms. Lesta suggested contacting the Katari Park in Marlboro. They offer nice groups activities. Mr. Hennessey plans to have a volunteer group paint the department school bus in time to utilize it for local outing during the camp. Mr. Mancino suggested a tour of the larger barns/farms in town; an example is Wells Spring Farm on Rt. 537. Ms. Burke added many children probably have not been to the parks in Colts Neck for hiking and/or displays of nature. Ms. Laufer stated you can also reserve the water park at Dorbrook for groups.

**Senior News** - Ms. Laufer stated there are 260 current members with trips planned in the coming weeks. The Oak Tree Lodge in Neptune being one (which also may be good for the day camps), it includes picnic area, heated swimming pool, sports etc. Ms. Lesta noted there was no mention of the **July 4<sup>th</sup> event**? Mr. Hennessy reported there will be a professional parking company managing the parking. Given the date falls on a Saturday, the crowd number should be larger than in past years. He is also working with a firework company on details. The cost of the firework displays have increased. Mr. Maida asked how are we affording professional parking? Mr. Hennessy said the payment for the professional parking is coming from the Township Committee. Discussion continued related to the financial aspect of the event. Some suggested charging to park. Mr. Hennessy will also be cutting down on parking at Cedar Drive School. The field conditions deteriorate from spectators parking. Mr. Valenti asked if there are any upcoming events the committee should be attending. The next event is the Fishing Derby which has been moved from Township Hall to Bucks Mill.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary

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**Memorial Day Parade – 2010**  
**(suggestions from 2009)**

Increase number of ribbons for the Bicycle Contest

Decrease sirens from Fire Engines

Antique Car line up (decrease overheating)

Publicize all bike riders in parade must wear helmets

Publicize best places to view parade

Ensure CNSF has ample time to solicit participants