

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: October 4, 2006**

Attendees: Frank Baker, Dr. Harold Nolan, Rich Rehm, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Bruce Bennett, Art Goodwin,
Leonar Lesta

Absent: Ed Pitrowski, Joe Mancino, Dwight Wolf

Township Liaison Absent: Tom Hennessy

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Frank Baker at 8:05 p.m.

The Committee approved the minutes from September 6, 2006.

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

Guest Presenter – Doug Latrenta, Baseball Commissioner, Colts Neck Sports Foundation

Mr. Latrenta thanked the committee for their support this year in maintaining the fields throughout town. He also is looking forward to partnering for future projects. The Sports Foundation's priority is safety awareness.

Specifically, Laird Road's # 1 baseball field is currently unsafe due to poor fencing and the flooding of the dugouts. Mr. Latrenta stated the Sports Foundation would be willing to help fund the improvements necessary for Laird Road in concert with the Recreation Committee. He also mentioned offering, as in the past, labor from members of the Sports Foundation to repair the fields. How can the improvements be made, Mr. Latrenta asked. Dr. Nolan explained each year it's a balancing of funds between a variety of recreation and parks projects. He has been successful in the past to obtain grant money and negotiated with the township to share in funding for projects. As an example on how projects get completed, Dr. Nolan publicly thanked Mr. Garito for his Engineering services for the renovation of ball fields in Colts Neck. Mr. Garito asked if the fields are unsafe, shouldn't the Township provide funding for safety issues? Mr. Latrenta stated perhaps the Township Committee does not have a good understanding of how unsafe the field is? Dr. Nolan did remind the committee Laird Road would be the last field to be renovated based on priority of projects. He also added that in 2007 there may be funds requested for tennis courts, and some other projects, and is not sure how much additional money would be obtained via grants. Mr. Baker asked Dr. Nolan to communicate the situation to the township as he did with the soccer fields. Dr. Nolan reminded the committee there are no full time employees specifically for park maintenance. Mr. Baker stated the issue of a new fencing is the priority for Laird Rd. Mr. Bennett suggested getting estimates to replace the fencing. Mr. Garito stated the parks have increased in number, without the staff increasing, why? Dr. Nolan explained he has asked for a full time park foreman for the past ten years.

All agreed the safety of the parks is priority, cost estimates for fencing will be provided by Dr. Nolan. Mr. Baker notes this is an on-going process.

Fall Recreation Programs

Instructional Programs

All programs are moving along, the enrollment is good.

28th Annual 10K Run

Approximately 200 runners participated in the run Dr. Nolan reported. Mr. Baker gave out the awards. Dr. Nolan noted more and more Colts Neck residents are participating each year.

4th Annual Cougar Invitational

Last Saturday, High Schools from surrounding states took part in the event. Winners from this years Penn Relays were racing against each other. It really had the top runners participating from the tri-state area at Bucks Mill.

October & November Programs

Whispering Pines Art Contest

Paintings will be submitted between 9/15 – 10/31 to Recreation Office for judging by Georgian Court University. Last year there were over 20 entries.

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Children's Halloween Party – 10/28

The event will be held at Conover Road School. Refreshments are provided by Delicious Orchards. It's a fun event for the children.

Veteran's Day Saturday, Nov. 11

The celebration will take place behind Town Hall followed by a light lunch provided by the Women's Club.

Battle of the Bands – Oct. 21

Dr. Nolan explained this event will be a great opportunity for Recreation to partner with teens in town. A fund raiser will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, 10/21 from 1 – 4 p.m., In support of raising funding for a skateboard park.

Colts Neck Craft Fair Evaluation

All agreed, the craft fair was a nice event. Cottage Crafts have asked to be on the 10/11 Township Committee meeting to discuss the possibility for a multiple year contract.

Letter to the Editor – Oct. Colts Neck Journal

Dr. Nolan explained most comments in the letter were not factual. It implied all staff were drinking at the camp out and that was not the case. The committee unanimously agreed Dr. Nolan handled the situation correctly and support his actions 100%. Mr. Goodwin stated because the letter was unsigned, someone should ask if that's the policy of the Journal to publish unsigned letters? Mr. Baker will inquire with Mrs. Burtnick the Editor for the Journal of the policy.

Park Operations

General Maintenance

Dr. Nolan reported, Taylor Fence expects to complete the fencing by Friday. A memo was sent to Mr. Thompson asking for Bill Cromer's assistance to pour the pads for the bleachers. Mr. Garito asked about grass seed for Cedar Dr.? Dr. Nolan stated after activities on the fields are completed, yes, seed will be placed on all fields except Conover Road.

Fitness Course Replacement

The new fitness equipment will be delivered on Friday. The vendor who will complete the installation will be selected on October 6th, when bids close.

Eagle Scout Projects

The flagpole lights at Five Point is the only project outstanding, per Dr. Nolan.

Grant – Monmouth County Parks for 2 new Tennis Courts

Mr. Bennett asked "What happened to the Board of Education owing the Township the tennis courts?" Dr. Nolan explained, they agree they owe three courts, however funding remained an issue. One of these new tennis courts may be built at Cedar Drive, and the other two courts at Conover Road.

Community Center Operation Policies

The homestretch is here, Dr. Nolan stated, pending heating, the Community Center is ready for operation. Currently, the building will be used by non-profit groups only. (i.e. sports foundation, scouts etc.)

New Business

2007 Recreation and Parks Operation Budgets

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As per process, the budgets will be presented at our November meeting, In addition to the 2007 Capital Development Budget. Mr. Bowden requests all budgets be submitted by December 15, 2006.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the Polo program sponsored a fund raiser for the Make a Wish Foundation” that raised \$102, 000.00. The group is looking forward to additional non-profit groups to participate in 2007.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne
Secretary