

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: October 3, 2007

Attendees: Dr. Harold Nolan, Bruce Bennett, Leonor Lesta, Phillip Maida, Ed Piotrowski, Joe Mancino
Jim Valenti, Candice Burke

Absent: Frank Baker, Richard Rehm, Dwight Wolf, A.J. Garrito

Township Liaison Present: Tom Hennessy

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Valenti at 8:00 p.m.

The Committee approved the minutes from September 5, 2007.

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

The Colts Neck Sports Foundation

President, George Corsi, Mike LaGrippo and Joe Neidermeyer were in attendance to provide an overview of the organization at the request of the committee. The organization has an 18 member Board who facilitate several sports programs for children, including travel teams. Approximately 1,200 children are enrolled in some sport with the Sports Foundation. The group also provides manpower and funding for a variety of projects throughout the parks in town and partner with both the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Colts Neck Board of Education. An example of a potential joint future project is at the Laird Rd. facility, which would include a pavilion/picnic area, snack building with a coach's room above and bathrooms. These items all in the early stages of development, Mr. Corsi advised he will be putting together a business plan w/ finances and advise the committee. Discussion continued of the condition of the fields at Five Point Park. Mr. Corsi stated the quality of the turf and the condition of the baseball fields are not in good shape. Another potential project is to have a well which would enable a sprinkler type system to maintain the fields. An underground irrigation system is too costly at this time to discuss. Mr. Piotrowski asked why the fields are such an issue? Did we not get what we paid for when the fields were built? Dr. Nolan replied, it's a combination of the soil and the fact it takes 3-5 years for a good feel to mature. The company did provide what they said they would.

Mr. Corsi reported they are exploring the possibility to have sponsorships from local business on the team uniforms. This would help offset some costs. He asked what the process would be should the organization seek sponsorship signs to be hung at fields. Mr. Bennett suggested in presenting this idea to the Township committee, he recommended perhaps using the signs during baseball season and removing them after the season ends.

Mr. Corsi discussed the field maintenance, by mid July weeds at Laird Road were growing all over the fields and backstop areas, the Sports Foundation does try and maintain some work to the fields. However, it's not enough to keep the fields in shape. Mr. Valenti asked how the bond/work program was working? Mr. LoGrippo replied they will not be pursuing that process again. Many people elected to provide payment rather than labor, and the entire program was extremely difficult to manage.

Mr. Corsi thanked the township for the seeding of Laird Road, Mr. Neidermeyer also extended appreciation on past and continued support to maintain the facilities. He continued that the Sports Foundation meets the first Monday each month at the Courthouse and meetings are open to the public. Members of the Board of Education, Township committee are also represented at their meetings.

Fall Programs

29th Annual 10K went well, next year will be a big one - 30th Annual which will make this race one of the oldest in the area. Instructional Programs - we did have to cancel kickboxing from our fall schedule, it was suggested the timeframe of 5 pm was too early to some interested registrants. All other programs are underway. The Cougar Invitational Cross Country Track Meet was held at Bucks Mill we had 350-400 runners from across the state. We will also be hosting the Shore Coach's Championship at the end of October. Joe Villa organized an Art Show this past Sunday at the Community Center, on Saturday our Intro to Star Gazing work shop was run by the STAR Astronomy club we had about 15 attendees. Our Fall Wreath making workshop was very successful with Mulberry Market instructing.

October/November Programs

Whispering Pines Art Contest is underway, the free Children's Halloween Party will be held on 10/27 at 10 - 11:30 at Conover Rd. Elementary school, Veteran's Day will be celebrated at Township Hall on 11/11 at 11 a.m., Community Band Concert is scheduled for November 1 at the High School, and our Fencing Tournament will be October 20 and 21 at the Primary School.

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
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Park Operations

Our CFO has approved the Capitol funding and we will be going ahead with the fencing etc. The Sports Foundation is funding the septic. Our Recreation and Parks Administration building is close to begin the window replacement/siding, Five Point Park's electric line to the telephone pool is set up, and enables a future possibility for an irrigation system with the electric established.

Master Plan for Recreation and Parks - funding has been approved for our office to update the master plan study from 1999. Resident and organization surveys will be mailed during the next two weeks. The information concerning facilities, programs and what residents would like to have in terms of future recreation programs and park facilities will be shared with the committee.

New Business

2008 Budgets - at the November meeting Dr. Nolan will provide copies of the Recreation and Parks and Playground budget, asking them to provide feedback at our December meeting. The Capital budget is more interesting as the Township had given funding for some "fix" items throughout the parks, there still needs to be more funding to maintain all of the parks and facilities. Dr. Nolan explained he will again, be asking for a full time parks staff. The Public Works Department does a great job, but they have other priorities throughout the township. As we add facilities and parks we need to be able to maintain them properly. Dr. Nolan asked the support of the committee, by speaking to Township Committee members if possible to support the full time Park staff request.

Mr. Maida stated that Fair Signs have disappeared, were they used to advertise the 10K ? Ms. Burke stated she saw NJ State workers pick up the Fair signs along Rt. 34. Dr. Nolan commented the signs for the 10K were old summer concert signs from years ago.

Mr. Maida asked to discuss the possibility of moving the Colts Neck Fair to September or October? There was concern with the committee as it may pose a conflict with pumpkin season, craft fair, and schools in session.

Senior News

Ms. Laufer reported 293 members in the Senior's club. Free flu shots will be offered to Seniors next week, the Swing Band held a great show for the club. Ms. Laufer has is compiling a 2008 calendar of activities, she commented that the budget spending has decreased since they received the tax exempt number for Recreation and Parks. The bus trip to see Jersey Boys is 100% full.

Chairman Valenti suggested the Polo Club be asked to join our November meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary