

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – October 7, 2009**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: October 7, 2009**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Paul Wild, Phil Maida, Dwight Wolf, Leonor Lesta,

Absent: Frank Baker, Candice Burke, A.J. Garito, Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski, Rich Rehm

Township Liaison: 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 September 2, 2009.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Stewards of the Park –

Obre Preserve - trash was cleaned up by Mr. Wolf. No other feedback was given from the remaining Stewards.

New Business

Mr. Hennessy stated a new **Line Dancing** program has begun this Fall. The program is for all fitness levels. He presented program information at the Senior Citizen meeting today, encouraged their participation. We've added a **Fall Co-ed Volleyball League** with 6 teams. The groups enjoyed playing in the Winter League and asked we add a Fall League. **Physical Enhancements for Recreation Building** - with local competition of fitness classes, Mr. Hennessy reported the addition of **8 additional side mirrors** to the Recreation Building. These mirrors would line the side walls creating a professional studio image. To clear out the **front vestibule**, a **storage closet** will be built in the basement similar to the existing Senior closet. This closet will provide much needed storage for fitness equipment. A fresh coat of paint and **new carpeting** will also be installed in the back entry stairway. Mr. Hennessy reported a **suggestion box** has been installed, the intent of program participants to provide feedback on not only existing programs but also for new programs the community would like implemented. Ms. Lesta commented years ago we sponsored a very successful cooking class in the lower level. Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee the appliances in the lower level are not in good working order. Ms. Laufer suggested bridge lessons in the daytime during the winter months. **Baseball and Soccer Field Maintenance** - fields at Bucks Mill have been limed and fertilized with the exception of field # 3. The Hispanic League will be tending to this field per their agreement with Recreation and Parks. By weeks end, Cedar Drive softball fields # 1 and # 2 are scheduled to be aerated, and seeded. Fertilizer will be applied to the base lines and perimeter of the new fencing. Soccer fields will be aerated, limed and fertilized with seed applied to field # 1 (track field). Laird Road fields # 1 and # 2 are also scheduled to be aerated, limed and fertilized this week with the Sports Foundation providing 200 lbs of seed. Conover Road field maintenance as yet to be determined. **Future Plans** – Mr. Hennessy is exploring adding a **5K to the 10K in Spring 2010**. He attended the Cougar Invitational which uses Bucks Mill Park's trails for their 5K. The Spring 5K would be a combination of a run/walk. The 5K would be a fund raiser for the Sports Foundation Irrigation projects. Rather than have separate weekends, the 5K and 10K would be on the same weekend day. Mr. Hennessy is looking at the event to be held April 10/11, 2010. Mr. Hennessy explained to Mr. Valenti and the committee the reasoning of postponing the 10K due to Brielle having a 10K the Saturday before the Colts Neck 10K. He will exchange mailing addresses with Brielle to reach out to more possible entries for the runs. Plus, he commented a 5K is less serious in terms of training and he would bring in the Sports Foundation to increase Colts Neck residents in participation, as many don't realize the beauty of Bucks Mill and Cedar Drive Parks. **Future daytime yoga classes** are in the works, Mr. Hennessy reported. Ms. Lesta commented St. Mary's church has daytime yoga on Mondays, maybe check with them as to not schedule the same day. We are planning to change **web providers** for maintaining our Department website.

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A vendor provided a sales call which was very enlightening to possible changes we could incorporate. Mr. Valenti stated the upgrades should include email blasts. Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Byrne to explain our paperless process with the Colts Neck Schools. The past few months none of our program information appeared on the school website, in several attempts to contact the webmaster with no result. Mr. Hennessy contacted Mr. Kasun, Superintendent. He advised to our department to refer back to paper flyers throughout the schools. Reason being, not all families are utilizing the school webpage and he feels paper is the best way to reach all students. The Whispering Pines Art Contest flyer was copied, and distributed to all three of the schools. After a second telephone conversation with Mr. Kasun it was agreed to also post information on the school webpage. Mr. Hennessy reported on Monday the Sports Foundation approved a 20 x 18.5 building of a shed to house the **Kifco unit**. The building will be a drive through type entrance and exit through the opposite side. A committee is forming to establish the location of the shed at Five Point Park. Mr. Hennessy provided feedback from a member of DPW who maintains the fields at Five Point; he commented he can see an 80% improvement on the fields. There is an area on the south east corner near the kiosk that needs work. A group from the Sports Foundation plans to fill and seed. Mr. Valenti asked have the condition improved due the irrigation? Mr. Hennessy replied yes. Spring 2010, Mr. Hennessy will be resurrecting the **Blind Garden**. Low maintenance plants will be installed in the Spring, a new water system with timer at the Library will also be installed. Although we have no way to measure the use, but we have received one complaint from the Monmouth County Blind Association. It will not be as sophisticated as the past garden. Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Lesta to report on the success of the **Broadway trip to New York City**. Ms. Lesta reported we ordered 20 tickets for Finians Rainbow. All 20 were sold and an additional 15 tickets were ordered. Those also sold. We have rows 1-3 in the mezzanine and the trip is scheduled for a matinee on November 18. The cost of the tickets remained low, due in part to our own school bus which will be providing the transportation to New York. Mr. Valenti asked if Mr. Florek had any Township business to share with the committee. He stated approval has been given to acquire the property on the corner of Rt. 520 and Clover Hill which will be remaining passive land use. The Township has acquired the property with state and county monies. Ms. Laufer reviewed the upcoming trips for the **Senior Club**. 135 members attended the September luncheon at the Molly Pitcher in Red Bank. A trip to Gettysburg, PA was well attended, an upcoming trip to Atlantic City is scheduled. Mr. Maida asked what ever happened to a Senior Community Center? Ms. Laufer explained it's a non issue as the Township does not want a Senior Center. Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Florek if there were any other Township matters. He replied the main issue is Earle and COAH. As the Township has filed a lawsuit against the Government which will be a long and expensive process. Mr. Wolf asked if the tax reassessment was completed yet? Mr. Florek suspects it's probably 80% complete. Mr. Hennessy noted Monmouth County is not longer recycling batteries. The Township has removed all battery recycling receptacles. Mr. Florek noted Monmouth County is recycling button batteries only.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary