

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: November 7, 2007

Attendees: Frank Baker, Bruce Bennett, Rich Rehm, Dwight Wolf, Phillip Maida, Ed Piotrowski,
Joe Mancino, Jim Valenti
Absent: Dr. Nolan, A.J. Garrito, Leonor Lesta, Candice Burke

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 October 3, 2007

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

The Colts Neck Polo Club

Art Goodwin led the overview of the town's Polo Club. He provided a hand-out with a brief history of the game of Polo. The club has approximately 65 full season members. Their season is during the spring months, Art commented they are looking to expand into fall when the weather is cooler. The members maintain the Polo field located at Bucks Mill park in terms of fertilizing, seeding etc. They also maintain their PA system, refreshments, and Port o Johns for their events. They've partnered with S.P.U.R., American Heart Association, and Make a Wish for charity Polo Matches at Bucks Mill Park. Art commented they've helped raise approximately 500,000.000 for the variety of charities. The future for the club includes increasing the level of play and players and expand their fundraising activities. Art stated the most important item on their "wish list" is water. He suggested a shared water supply with other groups using the Bucks Mill Park be discussed with the Township. Mr. Bennett asked why they can't use the water in the pond at Bucks Mill? Apparently the water is not very deep in the pond, and contains more sludge than water. Additional parking would be a great plus, perhaps blocking off a few areas for their Sunday matches to allow for spectators. The club plans to submit diagrams to this committee for an announcement stand that would be used at the Polo field. Carolyn O'Connell, Vincent Cerullo, Christoph Gerberding members of the Polo Club were also in attendance. Art surprised the committee stating they are the only Monmouth County Polo Club. Mr. Baker asked where do they find Polo teams for matches? Many come from Pennsylvania and New York. Mr. Valenti asked if players are from Colts Neck? Art said three are from Colts Neck, one from Manhattan. Mr. Valenti thanked the Polo Club for coming tonight, and stated the water item in on the "list".

Fall Programs

In Dr. Nolan's absence, Mr. Valenti asked Barbara to provide an overview. She stated the instructional programs are in full swing, with the exception of Zumba which was cancelled due to an Instructor not being able to fulfill her contract. Zumba is planned to be included to the Winter programs. The Halloween party hosted approximately 15 children and all enjoyed the games and fun. Whispering Pines Art contest is underway, the number of entries isn't as large as past years. Mr. Piotrowski asked if the contest included the high school, perhaps they would like to contribute. Barbara explained currently the contest is for children up to 8th grade. However it maybe a good idea for next year. For the first time, Colts Neck hosted the Shore Conference JV/Freshman Cross Country Championship at Bucks Mill Park, over 200 runners participated in this event. Adding Dr. Nolan advised all school buses to drop the runners off at the park and park at Five Point to preserve the grass and fields at Bucks Mill.

Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11, 2007

Plans for the ceremony are all set, Barbara stated. Mayor Stuart will be in attendance and Art Goodwin will be master of ceremonies. Barbara also mentioned the luncheon for Veterans, which Ms. Laufer concurred, will be held in the Library after the ceremony. To date, she has 39 Veteran's signed up to attend.

Holiday Festival Programs

Our tree lighting and Navesink Brass concert will be on Sunday, December 2. Anyone who would like to volunteer to give out hot chocolate would be appreciated. Dwight volunteered and Barbara will contact Leonor. The Williamsburg Christmas will be held the following Sunday, December 9. Two popular programs - Adult and Children's' Holiday Craft workshops are slated for December 4 and 8th respectively. (the adult workshop is 95% full).

Park & Recreation Facilities Update

Siding and replacement windows for 14 Heyers Mill Rd. should commence in the coming week. Laird Road baseball field renovation, Mr. Valenti stated has begun with fencing removed and benches etc. being delivered. Barbara announced the new sound system for our fitness programs was installed today. The state of the art system will be used for many of our many fitness classes. Five Point Electric System and Fall Seeding/Fertilization are both underway, Barbara stated.

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New Business

Barbara distributed the proposed 2008 Recreation and Parks budgets to the committee, asking them to provide feedback at our December meeting. Also distributed was a copy of the Master Plan updated survey being mailed to residents in the next week. Mr. Baker asked if all residents would receive a survey? Barbara explained a sampling of the survey would be done, with every 3rd resident receiving the survey, totaling for 1,300. Labels were obtained for all residents from the Tax office by block and lot number. A sampling survey would ensure well rounded results from residents. Barbara also asked the committee to begin thinking of projects for the 2008-2011 Capital Development Program. Mr. Baker stated the committee usually receives a copy of the past Capital projects as a reference. Barbara will mail that information along with the November meeting minutes.

Senior News

Ms. Laufer reported the trip to Jersey Boys on Broadway was a success. A Christmas luncheon is slated for December to Doolans. She is also planning activities for 2008.

Discussion regarding what group should attend our December meeting, the Trail Riders were mentioned as a possibility.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary