

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – April 2, 2014**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Brian McNally, Phil Maida, Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski,  
Chris Adams

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Rich Rehm, Paul Wild, Judy Laufer

Township Liaison Absent: Mayor Russell Macnow

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Valenti at 7:00 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from March 5, 2014.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

**Old Business**

2014 Budget Review – Mr. Hennessy, stated the department received an additional \$10K for capital projects based on recreation and parks revenue projections. A change for the regular budget is the Senior Citizen Club will receive a \$3K increase in donations from the Township for 2014.

Special Events – A list of upcoming events was discussed. Mr. Hennessy noted next year the Children's Easter Craft will be held in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary to ensure additional participants. Additional fitness classes from the BFitt Studio will be offered at Studio 14 this month. A summer camp preview with extended hours is listed in our Spring Brochure along with increased registration fees. He stated many Counselors are returning to the camp this year. Last year we had a banner success of 300-320 children. Mr. McNally asked how many people participate in the fitness classes. Ms. Byrne replied approximately 175 – 190 per season. Earth Day Assignments are pending, Mr. Hennessy is waiting replies from a few groups. Once all have confirmed participation he will email the final list. The Cole Brother Circus has extended the event for one day, they will be coming in on Sunday June 8. And the Township will have another \$1,500 in revenue. This year we are sponsoring a Summer Art Camp via a Colts Neck High School art teacher. When the Sports Foundation does not need Bucks Mill Park # 2 it is rented by outside teams with revenue currently over \$2K. Mr. Valenti asked where the Lacrosse Tournaments are held. Mr. Hennessy replied 10 fields at Bucks Mill Park (including the old Polo field) and possibly Cedar Drive. Mr. Valenti asked what happens to baseball during the tournaments. Mr. Hennessy replied, they are played on the Cedar and Laird Fields. Mr. Baker asked what is the size of the circus ring. Mr. Hennessy replied there will be a big top circus tent with a ring and animals. He has arranged for a clown to escort students from Cedar Drive school to the big tent to visit. Mr. Maida asked will the circus have shows at night. Mr. Hennessy stated there will be a 3 pm and 7 pm show each day.

**Park Projects**

Spring Field Preparation - Mr. Hennessy reported the department is ahead of schedule and is ready for opening day of baseball. Five Point # 2 is complete with some of the baselines have been narrowed with sod, and two mounds with breakaway bases. He will be posting a sign tomorrow closing the field to allow the turf to take to the soil. Mr. Dowd, President of the Sports Foundation, will be presenting at the next Sports Foundation meeting the possibility of 50% funding towards irrigation, the Township paying the other 50%. Mr. Adams mentioned the geese droppings at the soccer fields, he asked Mr. Hennessy if the fields would be rolled before opening day. There will be seven teams from surrounding towns coming to Colts Neck to play on the soccer fields. Discussion continued on geese droppings. Mr. Hennessy said the Monmouth County Parks hires Geese Police, who are one of the top twenty leading growth companies. The geese are so aware that when the company truck appears, the geese fly away. Mr. Piotrowski explained the Sports Foundation could use the fishing line method. Mr. Adams noted the children on her the fields 4 – 8 pm they would have to put up and take down the fishing line each day. He again, asked

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Mr. Hennessy if something could be done about the geese droppings before Sunday, it would be helpful. Mr. Hennessy promised something would be done with the geese droppings on the soccer fields before opening day. Capital Projects: Irrigation for Five Point # 2 is moving forward. Mr. Valenti asked about Laird Road # 3 and # 4 fields. He added, if the infield is built up, the water can be moved around off the playing field, and an irrigation pipe may not be necessary. Creating a swale in left field to run water off and away from home plate, forcing the water to the sides may be a solution for # 4. Field # 3 has a long way to go before solving its problems. Mr. Hennessy stated it costs \$830 a load for infield mix and at 10 loads = \$8K for building up the field..

**Other**

Mr. Baker asked what was happening with deer control. The recent Wildlife Committee meeting was cancelled. Mr. McNally asked what type of discussions that committee has about deer control. Field Use permits are generating revenue. Mr. Hennessy contacted Holmdel Recreation, they charge \$25 per field, the norm seems to be between \$25 - \$35. The popular fields to rent are Laird #1 and #2, and Bucks Mill #2. The Township could increase the fees via Township ordinance. Mr. McNally stated absolutely - we should increase the permit fee for fields. Mr. Valenti asked when the fields are scheduled for use. Mr. Hennessy stated the Sports Foundation receives priority over outside groups. There are not that many outside teams/groups using the fields. Mr. Hennessy stated about \$3K extra in baseball permit fees so far.

Mr. Baker asked if Mr. Hennessy will be providing the clean up bags for the Earth Week clean up. Mr. Hennessy stated yes. Mr. Valenti agreed with Mr. Hennessy and that 4 people to assist in cleaning up Big Brook would be fine. Mr. Adams will be contacting coaches from Cedar Drive. Mr. McNally asked if Mr. Pringle was still the baseball coach at Cedar Drive. Mr. Hennessy said yes. He noted Mr. Kosta will be assisting Mr. Baker with his clean up. Mr. Hennessy also has plenty of assistant for Ms. Laufer at Bucks Mill Park.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary