

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – December 2, 2015**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: December 2, 2015**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Judy Laufer, Paul Wild, John Rocco, Chris Adams

Excused Absence: A. J. Garito, Rich Rehm, Joe Mancino, Brian McNally

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from November 4, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Also in attendance, Ronnie Sullivan, representing the Colts Neck Trail Riders club.

**Liaison Report** – Mr. Hennessy noted he called Mr. Engel and advised him of Mr. Valenti's resignation as Chairman. He also mentioned expired terms of committee members – Ms. Laufer, Mr. Mancino, Mr. Garito, Mr. McNally and Mr. Rehm. Ms. Laufer, Mr. Mancino, Mr. Rehm will be returning. Mr. Hennessy will follow up with Mr. Garito and Mr. McNally.

**Old Business**

Stewards of the Park - There were no reports.

Veteran's Day Celebration - Mr. Hennessy asked Mr. Maida for his input on the ceremony as he was an attendee. Mr. Maida stated it was very well done. Between 25 and 30 Veterans were in attendance, several younger Veterans too. Ms. Laufer noted 30 Veterans in attendance. It was nice to have the children participate. Mr. Rocco added we all should say "thank you" whenever we see a Veteran. Mr. Hennessy noted it was a great coordinated effort with Principal Rigby, Cedar Drive School choir and band. Mr. Maida added, the Women's Club did a great job with the luncheon.

Ms. Laufer explained she received a call from the CN Community Church on November 10 saying they wanted to have a dinner for the Veteran's the next day. Ms. Laufer stated it was too short of a notice. She suggested the churches in town should coordinate with Recreation on Veteran's Day events. Mr. Hennessy asked if his department should be the catalyst. Ms. Laufer replied yes. Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Laufer if she wanted to take the responsibility, being so in touch with the Senior Citizens and Veterans. She sighted St. Mary's having mass and breakfast on Memorial Day and she had no knowledge of this event. There were too many events going on at one time. The Township has a list of Veterans, but it only includes those who have applied for a tax deduction. Many Colts Neck Veterans are not reflected on the Township tax listing. Ms. Laufer reviews the Township listing to remove deceased Veterans. She suggested a letter listing all Township events for Memorial Day be mailed to the Veterans. Mr. Hennessy stated a shared Google calendar of Recreation events is being discussed with Ms. Carpristo, Township Administrator. Mr. Valenti suggested listing the Township events in the quarterly brochure. Mr. Hennessy noted the Primary School will be conducting a project and is reaching out to families of Veterans, involvement includes the schools and the township government. Mr. Baker noted not to forget about Vietnam and Korean Veterans, in discussions. Mr. Maida mentioned Township resident, Mr. Doug Coppola who served in Iraq.

Field Maintenance – Mr. Hennessy stated Bucks Mill # 2 baseball field has been dressed up to make it a showplace field similar to Five Point Park. The field now has a professional mound and crushed stone around the baselines. It also is now a much improved field for Cedar Drive School's baseball games.

**New Business**

Santa's Workshop – Saturday, Dec 5 at the Primary School. Summer Camp Supervisors will be assisting children in creating 2 crafts. One being an ornament with glitter and finger or hand prints, the other a Christmas Tree.  
Letters to Santa - The CN Post Office has already received letters to Santa and mailed them to the Township. Special Santa mailboxes are located at the Post Office and Township Hall.

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Winter Program Guide – The Ad for our winter programs and holiday events will appear in this month's CN Journal. Mr. Hennessy asked if anyone received a copy of the Journal at home, no one did.

New Post and Rail Fencing for Polo Field – Mr. Hennessy noted Mr. Adams is working with his technical committee regarding the layout of the fencing. He asked the Department of Public Works if they would like to install the fencing. Given they're short staffed, they declined. Mr. Adams offered CN Sports Foundation recreation and travel soccer peers to provide the demo of the existing fence. Ms. Laufer asked when the court hearing for the person who damaged the field. Mr. Hennessy replied December 21.

Tree Lighting – The program was reviewed by the committee. Mr. Hennessy noted this year the John Albino and the Absolute Choir from Keyport will be performing. Santa will be set up in the Court House. Mr. Maida noted there won't be electricity for the choir at the Court House. Mr. Hennessy replied they will not need electricity. Mr. Wild will be located at the Court House with the hot chocolate. Mr. Wild suggested Mr. Hennessy doubles the amount of munchkins. He foresees a lot more people this year, given the projected weather report and the fact the hot chocolate is at the same location as Santa. Mr. Hennessy did reach out to the Community Church for assistance. Pastor Chris explained with so many projects going on, he wasn't confident he'd be able to gather enough boys to help with the hot chocolate. Mr. Hennessy stated Mr. Wild will have assistance from the boy scouts. Ms. Laufer suggested asking the Reformed Church for helpers. Mr. Maida will provide someone to go under the tree to turn on the electricity. Mr. Hennessy has the roping, lights, poinsettias and promised the court house will be very festive. Mr. Maida asked if Mr. Galinski will be Santa again this year. Mr. Hennessy replied yes. Mr. Wild requested 4 tables from Mr. Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy will provide table clothes, napkins, pitchers for pouring and 2 big thermal containers. Mr. Wild will purchase redi-whip, cups and bulk containers of hot chocolate. Mr. Hennessy will provide barriers with bows and garland to provide a courtyard like atmosphere for the CN Dance Academy. Mr. Maida replied to Mr. Hennessy's request for music at the Court House while children visit Santa, he will bring CDs and a CD player. Mr. Maida will find out who is driving the police car leading Santa to ensure the route. The CN Fire Police will be in attendance and offered the use of their new tower lights. Mr. Maida asked if they were movable. Mr. Hennessy will find out. All agreed the gazebo, outside of Town Hall should be lit up. Mr. Maida will provide plugs and extension cords. Mr. Hennessy will place cones to prevent cars from parking where Santa's Fire Truck will arrive.

Ms. Laufer noted 94 plus Senior Citizens attend today's meeting and luncheon. Mayor Schatzle gave a presentation on the importance of heart health and advised a defibrillator in homes would be beneficial. Mr. Adams commented the CN Sports Foundation has one on every field. Mr. Maida noted the importance of knowing CPR in an emergency. A representative from the CN Police Department also provided a presentation on current telephone scams. He advised, police departments do not call for donations, it's always done in writing. Ms. Laufer stated the Seniors will be going to Doolans this month for a Christmas show. Their annual Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Molly Pitcher Inn on December 21. She highly recommends seeing the comedy, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum at the Two River Theater in Red Bank. It was wonderful and suited for families.

Ronnie Sullivan was asked by the Trail Riders to follow up on an email Ms. Petruch sent to Mr. Hennessy regarding Bucks Mill Park. See below.

Hi Thom,

Wanted to bring to your attention that homeowners at 142 Montrose Rd. (the castle) are continuing to dump trees, brush and mountains of leaves across the trails in Bucks Mill Park. During the summer when CNTRC was clearing trails in preparation for the poker ride, the club placed a sign asking homeowners not to dump there. Sign is still in place but blatantly being disregarded. There is so much that a plow will be required to move it all! Also, group left caution tape in trees and bushes all around the park and there are discarded goals and metal in woods and ground around football field. I would hate to see the growth of this town lead to the trashing of our only true park!

Mr. Hennessy is meeting with Zoning Officer, Mr. Galinski tomorrow to discuss the email above and course of action.

Ms. Sullivan also provided photos to the committee related to the above. She also discussed concerns related to Bucks Mill Park brought to the committee's attention several months ago. For example, the metal posts with the sharp tops, discussion was made that these posts should be covered. The posts remain uncovered. Mr. Valenti stated some type of covers should be put atop the jagged posts. There is an old soccer net laying flat on the grass a horse could get tangled in it. Mr. Hennessy noted this section of the park is gated and locked, and not in use. Mr. Hennessy stated he will take care of the concerns brought by the CN Trail Riders Club.

Mr. Maida returned back to the Veteran discussion, resident Dr. Jack Smith had left his medical practice and enlisted in the army after September 11. He was in his 40s and was accepted by the army as a Doctor. He went to Iraq. He later was discharged and continued his medical practice. Dr. Smith is an example of one of our many Veterans in the Township.

Mr. Valenti announced his resignation as Chariman to the committee effective December 3. He thanked Mr. Hennessy and Barbara for their support. He came on as Chair when Dr. Nolan was Director and enjoyed working

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with all of the committee members throughout the years. However, due to personal commitments, he has tendered his resignation. Beginning in January, in addition to a full time career, he will become an adjunct Professor at Steven's Institute of Technology. Mr. Valenti felt he would no longer be able to be an active Chairman with the Recreation Committee given his new endeavor. Members expressed their appreciation of Jim's contributions.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary