

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – January 7, 2015**

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES: January 7, 2015

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Brian McNally, Joe Mancino, Judy Laufer, Chris Adams, Paul Wild, John Rocco

Excused Absence: Phil Maida, Rich Rehm, A.J. Garito.

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

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 December 3, 2014.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Mr. Valenti welcomed new Recreation Committeeman John Rocco and also welcomed Township Committeeman Jarrett Engel as Township Liaison.

Mr. Rocco provided a brief personal history.

Old Business

Mr. Hennessy explained this meeting we will be discussing numbers in terms of preparing the 2015 budget. He provided an overview of the programs and costs for the recreation as well as parks budget.

Township Committeeman Engel noted Township plans to make Township Hall Park an official arboretum. Mr. Hennessey stated the police department provided street numbers for each park and preserve in town. Committeeman Engle asked if that would work with GPS. Mr. Hennessy stated they will be shared with all of the committees.

Stewards of the Park – There were no reports.

Letters to Santa – There were 70 letters to Santa Claus this year. Two letters came in on Christmas Eve, and Thom and Barbara ensured both were delivered in time for Christmas.

Mr. Hennessey showed a photo from the Colts Neck Journal of Joann Dafeldecker, Supervisor of the Children's Santa Craft Workshop. As done last year, this workshop was in conjunction with PTO's Frosty event at the Primary School. Children who participated in this free program created a total of 90 tree ornaments and 50 sleighs. Mr. Hennessy noted it was a positive experience partnering with the schools.

Holiday Festival Concert and Tree Lighting – Mr. Hennessy thanked all Recreation committee members who assisted him the day of the event. It was a good crowd with over 200 hot chocolates served throughout the afternoon. Mr. Wild noted the children from the Colts Neck Community Church were a big help serving the hot chocolate. Mr. Hennessy noted it was good for them to see the "behind the scenes" activities too. (i.e. moving poinsettias from one location to the other etc.) Mr. Valenti asked how the flow of attendees worked out between the Courthouse concert and Santa at Township Hall. Mr. Hennessy replied it worked out very well.

2014 Budget Discussion – Mr. Hennessy came under budget on both the recreation and the parks budget. He shared a graph of revenue and expenses, explaining the revenue had gone up while keeping expenses low, very close to 2014 spending. He noted with the student population in the school decreasing, so are the camp registrants. Mr. Hennessy shared ideas to further promote the camp, partner with the schools and PTO, and boost up the website to name a few. He also asked for feedback about opening the camp to surrounding towns. If necessary he will decrease the camp staff and trips.

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Mr. Engel stated the Township is about the quality of life. Mr. McNally commented opening camp up to other towns may not bring the quality of life to the program. Ms. Laufer asked if surrounding towns have day camps. Mr. Valenti asked if we are losing money from the camp. Mr. Hennessy stated we are breaking even. Mr. Valenti suggested keeping the camp local. Mr. McNally commented when his children worked at the camp it was easy as they knew other children working there, making it easier to manage. Mr. Adams asked if participants pay for the trips. Yes, all do, Mr. Hennessy stated. Mr. Engel suggested a type of shared service with Marlboro's pool club to cut trip costs. Mr. Hennessy did speak to Marlboro about using the pool but the hours the pool was available did not work with camp hours. He asked if anyone has ideas about the day camp after the meeting, please let him know.

New Business

Winter Program Guide – Mr. Hennessy noted all but one fitness program is a go. Each program must stand on its own financially to continue. Some classes are smaller than others and participants receive the attention they desire in a boutique type atmosphere. The Saturday morning spinning class enrollment has been closed, all 13 bikes have been reserved for the winter months. Mr. Mancino asked if Cathy Poppe is listed in the guide for horseback lessons, as her farm is for sale.

Community Center Winter Activities – Mr. Hennessy is pleased to report the building is being used Sunday through Saturday. Scouts, indoor soccer, Cedar Drive School wrestling practices and tournaments and indoor baseball practice. The building costs approximately \$5K/year to heat, with the increase in use, it's nice to see the building being used to its potential.

2014 Year in Review – Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, Earth Day, Memorial Day Parade, Lacrosse and Soccer tournaments, Cole Brothers Circus, CN High School summer programs, dog box racing a Children's Hospital benefit 10K, CN Pet Fair, are some of the many events from 2014. Refurbishing Bucks Mill Park fields # 2 and 3, Laird Road # 2, Cedar Drive softball fields, Five Point baseball 46/60' to a 50/70 all park projects completed in 2014.

2015 Outlook – Ultimate Frisbee will be returning. Mr. Hennessy is a member of the CN Business Advisory group, many events help these business by bring outside visitors into Colts Neck. With the OK from the Township Committee, he would like to broaden the approach to expose outside groups to what Colts Neck has to offer, from apple picking to dog lure coursing. Mr. Engel noted the Township is looking at a possible plan to award tax deductions to those buying from local businesses. Mr. Hennessy commented years ago the Colts Neck Craft Fair would offer a discount for admission to residents. He will continue to work closely with CN High School, noting Whispering Pines Art Contest had entries from the High School this year.

Field fees will be increased by \$10 through a Township ordinance. Mr. Engel asked if anyone has heard the plan to construct fields across from Vonage in Holmdel. Mr. Adams had heard about the project may also include indoor sports facilities. Mr. McNally asked by raising field fees \$10, what is the projected revenue. Mr. Hennessy will provide approximate information to him. There was \$15K unexpected park expenses, i.e. pump repairs, \$3,500 for emergency grass cutting and \$3,500 for processed mulch for the play grounds. The budget has no room for unexpected expenses and the outlook for 2015 is more of the same. Mr. Hennessy noted, he is looking for new opportunities to bring in revenue and would welcome ideas.

Mr. Valenti asked Public Attendee, Ronnie Sullivan CN Trail Riders Club for comments. She stated there are 150 members of the CN Trail Riders. She asked if there were any plans to pave driveway into Bucks Mill Park. It is very difficult to pull a horse trailer on the driveway with so many pot holes. Mr. Hennessy explained the driveway has been scraped 8 – 10 times a year, with one bad rain storm, the holes re-appear. She asked who makes the decision to pave the driveway, Mr. Hennessy stated the Township Committee would be the ones to make the decision. Mr. Engel noted the priority this year is to have the streets paved for approximately \$133K. Mr. Engel added there will be about 10% of the budget allotted to open space maintenance. In 2014 Monmouth County provided matching funds to 15 towns for maintenance. In the past emphasis with matching funds were given for land acquisitions only. In 2015

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funding is available for maintenance projects and Mr. Hennessy looks to apply for a grant before the September deadline.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated 93 attended the luncheon today at the Colts Neck Inn. There are 268 members. December 18 was the Christmas Luncheon at the Molly Pitcher, December 22, they took a trip to Hunterdon Hills Play House. She stated a resident on Bray Road runs gatherings to create greeting cards. Twelve members attended and created 6 dozen cards to be sent to servicemen. The by-laws were revised, allowing the club President to remain in office for a longer term. John Walsh was re-elected to another term as President. She continued by saying the Township provides only 35% of the funding for the club activities, the rest is paid for by the members. At their last meeting a presentation was given by a member of the Colts Neck Police Department. Seniors brought to his attention a concern with home delivery mail order medication packages. Members have found these packages slashed open by people looking for drugs.

Township Liaison - Mr. Engel asked everyone to thank the Township Police Officers for all the work they do. They too, are being impacted by the anti-police issues, which are not limited to New York City.

Mr. Engel noted in 2017 the Township will be celebrating its 55th birthday and is looking for event ideas. He is also aware of the many maintenance needs for Township buildings. For example, the police department basement, Library and parks. He also would like the Township to communicate information on social media and increase the use of the reverse 911 system.

Mr. Wild asked how the deer hunting was going in town. Mr. Engel stated the program is underway, results probably won't be known until spring. There was a hunting accident in town that is being investigated. All of the illegal hunting stands have been removed on Township property as it is illegal to hunt on Township property. Because the Township has partnered with the state requirements, hunters are going to the Colts Neck Police Department and asking about hunting guidelines, which has decreased illegal hunting in the Township.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary