

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

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Judy Laufer, Brian McNally, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, Chris Adams

Excused Absence: Jim Valenti, Rich Rehm, John Rocco, A.J. Garito, Joe Mancino

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Frank Baker at 7:00 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from June 3, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Also in attendance was Ronnie Sullivan representing the Colts Neck Trail Riders Club.

Old Business

Summer in Review – Mr. Hennessy stated the summer day camp was very successful! The children had 32 trips. The staff was great. Because work was being done at Conover Road Elementary school this year, grades K-3 were relocated to the Primary School.

In addition, several educational camps were sponsored by Recreation, STEM, Percussion and Drum, Art and Lego. Lego camp was so popular it has been added as an after school camp at Conover Road Elementary School for fall.

Bucks Mill Park hosted a Baseball College Showcase with 50 colleges participating. The coaches set up table and chairs to view NJ Elite's baseball teams and invited baseball prospects. The #2 baseball field was kept in good condition and was perfect as a showcase, Mr. Hennessy stated.

Mr. Baker asked if the summer day camp still holds the overnight camping trip at Allaire State Park. Mr. Hennessy explained it was removed from the program. Mr. Baker's grandchildren attended the camp this year and loved it.

New Business

Stewards of the Park - Mr. Hennessy stated the Lions Club did a massive cleanup at Bucks Mill Park. There were no other reports by the committee. Mr. McNally did ask if the committee was responsible for the signage at Town Hall, specifically the Library sign. He explained it could be repainted, the same for the Police Department sign. Mr. Hennessy explained that Monmouth County Parks had a great signage department. Ms. Laufer suggested to ask the Friends of the Library to repaint the sign. Mr. Wild questioned the accuracy of the trail sign at Town Hall. He understood it to read both trails were the same distance, which would be incorrect. Mr. Hennessy will investigate the accuracy.

Vandalism at Polo Field – Mr. Hennessy stated the polo field is in a "lock down" mode due to damage to the field. The gate will remain locked. Mr. Maida asked what kind of damage. Mr. Hennessy replied some person or persons drove onto the field in a car creating ruts. The field was temporarily repaired at the cost of \$1,200. He had placed metal posts blocking access to the field last year. Mr. Adams asked how did they get onto the field. The person or persons who did the damage got to the field via Cedar Drive. Mr. Wild suggested getting a night camera. Mr. Adams advised Mr. Banco may be able to assist with a camera. Ms. Laufer was at the recent Township Meeting and was told the police had caught the person. Mr. Hennessy was not aware of anyone recently being caught by the police.

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Graffiti at Five Point – Mr. Hennessy explained someone painted graffiti on the wall at the 60/90 baseball field. Because the wall is made with pea stone and the vandals used auto paints he was unable to remove the paint. He has contacted a business that will be able to remove the graffiti.

Fall Brochure Publication and Update - Mr. Hennessy stated the brochure is at the printer and will be mailed this week. He passed out word documents of the brochure.

Field Maintenance - Mr. Hennessy shared Bucks Mill #2, #3 baseball fields are in good shape, as is Cedar Drive softball fields. Five Point need work, and Laird too. It's been a tough few weeks without rain. Fall fertilizer and lime will be applied to 60 acres of unfenced fields.

He continued by explaining Bucks Mill Park has a new well with a 5 horse variation speed pump that will allow irrigation to be applied at the block building. One method would be a pipe system with a hook up similar to a fire hydrant using the water wheel at Bucks Mill. Irrigation would be available for all soccer fields, # 2 and the fairgrounds. An alternative would be to expand irrigation at Five Point Park. Mr. McNally asked which park is used more. He assumes it would be Bucks Mill. Mr. Maida added completing Five Point before starting irrigation at another location makes sense. Mr. Hennessy noted Five Point is not used by Colts Neck as much as Bucks Mill. Mr. McNally asked who plays on # 1 at Five Point, in the past Coach Pringle from Cedar Drive School held games at Five Point. Mr. Hennessy maintains a field at Cedar Drive for Coach Pringle to use, eliminating his team having to travel to Five Point. This is the 2nd year in a row Cedar Drive school plays at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. McNally noted that is a great idea. N.J. Elite has taken pride in the fields they use. They've added a dual pitcher's mound with screen. Mr. McNally suggested completing irrigation at Bucks Mill Park first. Mr. Adams asked who would water the fields with the water reel. Mr. Hennessy said he would. It takes a tractor to pull the unit. Mr. Baker asked how deep is the new well. Mr. Hennessy said over 200'. Mr. Adams asked the cost of an irrigation system vs. the water reel. Mr. Hennessy stated Five Point was \$22K two years ago. Mr. Adams stated the Sports Foundation would contribute to the cost either next year or the year after whenever the plan is, it should be an automated irrigation system. He concurred to complete irrigation at one park before going on to another.

Events – The following were reviewed. Whispering Pines Art Contest, CNSF Fall Baseball/Softball and Soccer, Dog Lure Coursing and Box Racing may be moved to Laird Road # 4 if not occupied, during conflicts at Bucks Mill. Tomorrow, Mr. Antus, Interim Township Administrator, will be having a meeting to discuss logistics for Rockfest on September 19 & 20, Fall Lacrosse October 18, Veteran's Day November 11 with return to Cedar Drive School.

Ronnie Sullivan shared CN Trail Riders held a successful Poker Run on August 1 at Bucks Mill Park. Approximately 30+ participated. They also participated with Rutgers's program and teens cleaned the trails.

Senior Citizen Club Report

Ms. Laufer stated their next meeting is next week. Fall schedule includes a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Two River Playhouse and in December, Doolans in Spring Lake.

Mr. Hennessy added he walked Schlesinger Preserve with Eagle Scout Will Luckewitte and viewed his Signage enhancements. The Eagle Scout who completed the improvements at Memorial Park saw the park was in need of maintenance. He told Mr. Hennessy he has two more years left in High School and will maintain the park.

Mr. Baker noted he and his wife tried to walk back to Big Brook from Schlesinger Preserve and could not. Is there any plans for the Eagle Scout to clear that trail? Mr. Hennessy stated he tried to perform the work with his machete and stated it is a big project to clear. In the past, he had one of the larger homes box in their pool pump to lessen the noise and create a better experience at the Preserve.

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Mr. Wild inquired about using tennis courts in town to include pickle ball. Mr. Hennessy replied Todd Edwards is getting a league together to play at the Dorbrook court. He advised if Pickle Ball takes off then perhaps Colts Neck would look to have a court or use a tennis court in town. But with one at Dorbrook, there is not a demand on Colts Neck recreation. Before an investment is made for Pickle Ball, Mr. Hennessy would suggest waiting to see if the sport creates a demand.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Baker, Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary