

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – April 4, 2012**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: April 4, 2012**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Joe Mancino, Phil Maida, Leonor Lesta

Excused Absence: Candice Burke, A. J. Garito, Paul Wild, Brian McNally, Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Absent: 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 March 7, 2012.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Stewardship Program – Mr. Hennessy asked the committee for input regarding their assigned Park/Preserve. He commented, Mr. Mottola (Boy Scouts) advised they have picked up trash at Obre Preserve. Mr. Baker stated the trails at Town Hall look great, however the woodchuck hole and graffiti still remain. Mr. Hennessy explained the manufacturer's removal solution did not work on the fit trail unit, he does have an alternative solution and will attempt to remove the graffiti. Mr. Baker commented he only saw a few geese at the park, unlike last month when the park was full of geese. Mr. Hennessy stated migration has helped with the reduction. He is also coordinating geese removal efforts with Health Officer, Mr. Tom Frank.

Mr. Valenti has a request from a citizen to add a Port o John to Township Hall, because there is no bathroom facility available when the public buildings are closed. Mr. Hennessy advised it cost \$189/month. Mr. Valenti asked if there are Port o Johns located at other Township parks. Mr. Hennessy replied yes. He will discuss the possibility with Mr. Bowden, Township Administrator tomorrow.

Special Events

The Spring Program Guide has been mailed to all residents, new programs are featured on the cover. Mr. Hennessy mentioned there are more dog obedience programs for Spring. Children's Easter Arts and Crafts program took place on March 20. Attendance was low. Ms. Dafeldecker does an outstanding job with the crafts. He hopes to continue the tradition of the program. Easter Egg Hunt/Brunch with the Easter Bunny was postponed due to weather, the new date is Saturday, April 7. Mr. Hennessy mentioned the same staff will be assisting as last year. Sports Foundation Opening Day Baseball & Snack Shed Dedication at Laird Road is scheduled for April 14. The snack shed is gorgeous. Mr. Hennessy stated Ms. Sheehy, Baseball Commissioner, did a phenomenal job. Mr. Valenti asked if the 9/11 memorial will be maintained for opening day. Mr. Hennessy stated yes. Mr. Baker asked if there are any plans to refurbish the Blind Garden behind the Library. Mr. Hennessy stated that Ms. McKittrick, a Township resident, did contact him. Mr. Rehm also spoke to her and reminded her that the project is a large one and would require ongoing maintenance.

The Committee reviewed Earth Day assignments similar to 2011, Mr. Hennessy will find a group for the Schlensinger Preserve. Mr. Maida stated the Colts Neck First Aid Squad would not be able to clean up on Earth Day, but on an alternative date. Mr. Valenti commented he will not be able to be present for clean up at Big Brook as the high school will be there on a week day. Mr. Baker asked if Mr. Hennessy will be supplying the trash bags, he stated yes. Mr. Maida asked if he will be supplying the pickup sticks too. Mr. Hennessy explained DPW has pickup sticks but they are used by Clean Communities and hopes to have access to them. The cleanup has been affiliated with Clean Communities in the past as he hands in sign

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up sheets each year with the names of participants/groups. These participants/groups assist to increase the participation data for Clean Communities. Ms. Lesta asked the cost of pick-up sticks. Mr. Hennessey stated \$12 and \$24 with an approved vendor. She suggested sharing purchased sticks with Clean Communities and vice versa. Mr. Baker offered to supply his own trash bags to clean up Town Hall, Mr. Hennessey stated that is not necessary and he will provide the trash bags.

Colts Neck Classic Bicycle Race on May 6 Mr. Hennessey has a volunteer to serve as Safety Director at this event and hopes to include the Fire Police to assist. Ms. Lesta asked if it will be the same course as last year. Yes it will, Mr. Hennessey replied. Ms. Lesta suggested Mr. Hennessey contact the Fire Police for their participation. She continued by suggesting to have verbiage in the race application that participants honor all volunteers directing traffic along the route. The most critical safety area of the course is between Cross and Long Bridge roads. Mr. Hennessey has a meeting tomorrow evening with the Atlantic Bicycle staff.

Community Band concert will take place on May 24, Men's Softball League not sure if we will have enough teams. Games are played at Earle. Colts Neck Fair coming up on June 29 and June 30 at Bucks Mill Park.

Memorial Day Parade - Mr. Hennessey will distribute the Line of March. He asked for input on having the Jr. ROTC Drill Team perform a demo at the Grave Site. Ms. Lesta thought it would be good at the Fire House. Mr. Baker commented if there would be enough room at the gravesite. Mr. Maida asked if the grass area at the gravesite would be large enough for the demo. Mr. Hennessey replied the demo would be held on the road. Mr. Hennessey stated his concern is if such a demo is appropriate. He also noted Mr. Wheeler will be performing his musket salute again this year. Mr. Maida confirmed his daughter will be singing at the Gravesite Ceremony.

Park Projects

Field Permit Update – Mr. Hennessey has distributed all permits to the Sports Foundation. Where there are open field times, most outside groups are returning and paying to use the fields. A new group this year is the Colts Neck Community Church.

Spring Field Preparation – What a difference a year makes! Mr. Hennessey stated that with last year's snow and water tables high field maintenance was extremely difficult. This year by March all fields were in good shape. Tomorrow an outside company will spread fertilizer on the fields. If there is any leftover fertilizer, he will ask they spread it onto the fair grounds and a roadway area near the Polo field.

Mr. Maida asked if DPW could fill in the major hole in the driveway up to Bucks Mill Park.

Laird Road Well – Mr. Hennessey met with JCP&L to discuss their requirements for electricity to Laird Road field #s 3 & 4. The electricity will serve a new well at the park. He explained existing greenways from Liberty Knoll will be how JCP&L will get the cables/wiring and transformer to the back fields. Ms. Lesta asked if the project will be all underground. Mr. Hennessey replied, yes. JCP&L will perform the work at no cost, the Township needs to have a ditch dug for the cables. Mr. Maida asked if the transformer will be large enough to accommodate the well plans. Mr. Hennessey stated in a previous meeting related to Laird Road, Mr. Garito asked the electric be enough for a future snack shed.

Other

Summer Day Camp Dates - Summer Camp will be extended by one week, dates June 25 – August 10; Mr. Hennessey stated to offset costs there will be an increase in registration fees. He has already booked several activities for campers including a visit to a Pirate Ship, Beach outing at Seven President's Park and sing a long entertainment.

On-Line Payments – Many are paying on-line through Pay Pal. Ms. Byrne gave an overview of the web tool used to connect to Pay Pal – Stadium Roar. The Department has been using Stadium Roar for three

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years to book fields/preserves which includes a no double booking feature. In January, added functionality for on line registrations and payment was implemented. The company was started by two college friends from Dartmouth. Both owners are extremely receptive to our needs and continue to expand the use of the tool. Due to their funding by sponsorships there is no cost to the Department!

Mr. Hennessy shared the next Eagle Scout project is a sign on Laurelwood Road to mark the entrance to Big Brook Preserve. Future Eagle Scout projects will have little to no maintenance and will have a defined purpose.

Mr. Rehm asked if No Smoking signs could be posted at Schlesinger Preserve.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary