

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – July 6, 2011**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Brian McNally, Ed Piotrowski, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, Leonor Lesta
Jim Valenti, Candice Burke

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

Also in attendance: Ms. Laufer

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 June 1, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

2011 Summer Camp – Mr. Hennessy stated this years camp is “exciting” with the number of campers is equal to or better than 2010 camp. Final Trip Schedule – He offered colored coded copies of trips schedules for each camp should anyone want to view them. Each camp's colored coded trip schedule, also included a permission slip.

Mr. Antonides is working with the credit card companies to set up program registrations on line for next year. Conover Road arts and crafts will be having a regatta of homemade sailboats, at Big Brook. Mr. Mancino asked where the sailboat regatta will take place. Mr. Hennessy explained it will be on the banks of Big Brook, with police assisting in crossing Conover Road. Staff at Conover Road camp is being led by Mrs. Sheri Rao who is the art teacher at Conover Road Elementary. Amy Tripold, a recent P.E. graduate of Springfield College, is her assistant. She minored in education. Tom Savage returned for his 3rd year as the Cedar Drive Supervisor with Amy Hannon as his assistant. We have close to 200 children at Conover Road Elementary, and about 100 at Cedar Drive. Several counselors had to move over to Conover to help support Mrs. Rao. Mr. Hennessy mentioned the sponsored camps listed in the brochure, noting Recreation and Parks receives 10% of all registrations from these programs. He added since we are on the internet we received many applications for these camps. Field Maintenance – Mr. Hennessy stated there has not been much field maintenance, with some fields overgrown. He had discussed this with Mr. Thompson who will be working to improve the field conditions. Different leagues do rent out these fields, and if they're not in good condition we will lose revenue. Mr. Valenti asked is it just cutting grass the issue. Mr. Hennessy stated, no, it's lining the fields, overturning the soil etc. Ms. Burke stated the Sports Foundation uses machines to maintain fields, should they be left for the rental groups. Mr. Hennessy stated no, due to insurance regulations.

New Business

Bud Wheeler has accepted the invitation to attend our September 7th meeting. Ms. Burke asked if he would provide the committee with a musket demonstration. Mr. Hennessy said that would be no problem.

The Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 10 am at Bucks Mill Park. Ms. Burke asked fit there will be a mini fishing lesson prior to the start of the Derby. Mr. Hennessy said not this year, but will bring him back for next year. Results of summer camp extension poll were in 98% in favor of extending the camp 1 week. Mr. Piotrowski asked if Mr. Hennessy would increase the summer camp fee, Mr. Hennessy would increase camp fees proportionally. Ms. Burke has heard nothing but positive feedback regarding the camps.

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Field Use Permits – September and October groups will be using the community center and pavilion Bucks Mill increasing the department's revenue. Mr. Hennessy commented this weekend the Community Center is being rented for a party. There will be no extra space as soccer groups are renting fields. The housing for the Kifco unit is being completed with the Sports Foundation paying for the materials. Ms. Burke noted soccer games at Five Point Park can be changed to another park if groups are notified in advance. Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee many families prefer the sports activities are completed by noon, in afternoons you notice most fields are empty. We will receive \$840.00 for the use of one soccer field at Bucks Mill Park this summer.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Valenti asked for a discussion on the Fair. Mr. Engel began by saying most of what the Fair Committee did was a gamble that paid off. By Friday evening, all vendors etc. had made money. There were close to 3,000 cars according to Mr. Maida, who was in charge of parking. Some commented on the admission charge. Others disappointed in not having enough rides for their children were given refunds, which were few. Saturday the turnout was decent, Mr. Engel stated. The committee will discuss changes and all ideas for next years fair. Some stated there were not enough activities the 2nd night. Mr. Hennessy commented the train ride was excellent, the owner of the ride provide a brochure which explained many more kiddie type rides available for next year. There is also discussion of pooling resources with the Lions, and CNBA for a Colts Neck Day. Mr. Maida mentioned the possibility of a dunk tank next year. Mr. Maida stated it took 22 minutes to empty the park after the fireworks. Ms. Lesta suggested next year to sell bracelets for a discounted price for 2 nights, this may help attendance for the 2nd night. She was helping with Grannies Attic and noticed people who were interested in items the first night, did not return for the 2nd night.

Township Perspective - Mr. Engel stated the Township is putting together several large bonds for maintenance of roads, purchase of fire trucks etc.

Mr. Engel has also drafted a referendum which would allow existing money from taxes paid into farmland to be used for maintenance and development of open space. If the referendum is passed by the Township Committee it will be on the November ballot. Ms. Burke asked if all of the parks and preserves come under open space. Mr. Engel said yes. He encourages everyone to attend a public meeting to discuss the referendum. The past public meeting resulted in placing a 20% cap on the use of the monies.

Ms. Laufer reported the Seniors attended a luncheon today at Mike Doolans and Mr. Walch has plans for many future trips.

Monmouth University Polling Institute and the Master of Arts in Public Policy Program recognized Colts Neck Township for both the "Best Municipal Website" and the "Best Informative Website" in Monmouth County.

Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee will not meet in August.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary