

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES; May 1, 2013**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Judy Laufer, Brian McNally, Rich Rehm, Paul Wild

Absent: Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski, A.J. Garito, Candice Burke

Township Liaison Present: Mike Fitzgerald

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

The Committee approved the minutes of April 3, 2013. (page 2, Colts Neck Fair kiddie rides corrected)

**Old Business**

**Cedar Drive baseball/softball field enhancement** – Mr. Hennessy stated field # 1 and # 2 improvements were made successfully. The field may need one more load of infield mix. The improvements were completed under the \$14,000 budget.

**Earth Day/Stewardship** – All Earth Day activities worked out well. There were no comments from any of the park stewards.

**Liaison Report** – Mayor Fitzgerald indicated the Township will not be pursuing a bond for field improvements. Mayor Fitzgerald stated the Sports Foundation and Mr. Hennessy will continue to work together on field projects. He commented how well the Sports Foundation and Mr. Hennessy are working and stated the group seems to be invigorated. The projects will be completed as if the bond was set up. The Township will continue to commit \$20K a year towards field improvements. Mr. Hennessy continues to have a good working relationship with the Sports Foundation. The Township budget for 2013 has been passed and is below the cap for Capital spending. There will be some road repairs in town. Mayor Fitzgerald asked Mr. Hennessy to reach out to Committeeman Orgo, who is on the Wildlife Committee, for possible impacts to Recreation and Parks. Kevin Clarke, of the Wildlife committee is managing the restocking of Township Hall pond. Mr. Valenti asked the Mayor if that committee could add feral cats to the list. Mayor Fitzgerald noted the Township spends \$30K a year to manage animal control, through the Associated Humane Society. Mr. McNally asked for a status on the projects around Township Hall. Ms. Laufer noted town hall needs a new roof. Mayor Fitzgerald stated Mr. Bowden will be sending out bids for the project. He continued by adding the parking lot is being paved, the County is seeding the area impacted from the dredging project. The Shade Tree committee is looking at plants to discourage geese at the ponds. Ms. Laufer noted Committee Schatzle as Mayor created a project plan for Township Hall. Mayor Fitzgerald asked Mr. Hennessy to obtain a copy of the plan and work with the Wildlife Committee to ensure they maintain the plan. Mr. McNally commented the ponds look very nice, and it would be a shame to cover the view on the pond with plantings. Mr. Hennessy added Mr. Frank, Health Officer did a study on planting to keep out geese from the ponds. He stated last year there was 38 geese at the pond, this year there is only 16. Mayor Fitzgerald reminded the committee it's a two way street, and asked if there are any items for him to bring back to the Township Committee. There were no comments. The Mayor excused himself to attend another meeting.

**Special Events** – Mr. Hennessy announced this Sunday is the Colts Neck Classic Bicycle Race, May 27 the annual Memorial Day parade and June 8 the Fishing Derby.

## Park Projects

**Field Use** – Mr. Hennessy stated this past weekend 35 Schnauzers held a confirmation event at Bucks Mill Park. In conjunction with lure coursing two smaller fields have been created at lower Bucks Mill for the Wildcats lacrosse to utilize. The grass areas are now 8.5 out of 10, rating for condition evaluation, the polo field is 6.5 with the intentions of the grass are to go to 7.25 by fall.

**Spring Field Preparation** – Fertilizer will be applied with lime applications beginning this month.

## Other

**Summer Camp** dates July 1 – August 9, with 100% of the Supervisors returning and 70% of the Counselors. Mr. Hennessy stated this will be a great year. **Memorial Day Parade** – Mr. Hennessy submitted a photo from Boston Common of flags to be used in our Memorial Day ad in the Colts Neck Calendar. **Publicity** – We have hosted NIA fitness events at Heyers Mill Road, including the founders of the program participating. Jersey magazine mentioned our facility in an article about NIA. The Colts Neck Calendar will have an article about our Easter Egg Hunt in their May issue.

**Memorial Day – Line of March** – Mr. Hennessy asked the Mayor if he had any changes to the gravesite ceremony. He had no changes. Mr. Maida advised Kimberly would not be available to sing at the Gravesite ceremony this year.

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Hennessy to provide brief written introductions for Bud Wheeler and the Barbershop Quartet.

Mr. Mc Nally brought up last year's concern related to the number of people lining up for the free hot dogs at the firehouse during the gravesite ceremony. It seemed last year 30% of the people drifted up to the firehouse instead of joining the ceremony. Ms. Laufer suggested the firehouse keep the doors down until after the ceremony. The committee noted we cannot stop people from lining up at the firehouse even with the doors closed.

Mr. Hennessy will ask the fire chief to stop the sirens near the "towers" so as to respect those Veteran's attending the gravesite ceremony. Mr. Maida commented he was told from a resident the reason they don't attend the parade is because of the sirens.

Mr. Hennessy will inform the Chief of Police he must be up in front of the parade. Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Laufer for Veteran's from each war to participate; similar to years past signs of each war will be placed on golf carts with representatives riding in the carts. Mr. Hennessy will send an open invitation to all committees asking if they'd like to march.

Bicycle contest posters will go up all throughout town. Mr. Maida said all businesses were happy to post the poster in their window. Mr. Hennessy will ask Mrs. Rao, Art Teacher at Conover Road Elementary School to advertise the contest.

Mr. Maida did contact the Colts Neck High School band and is waiting a call back.

Mr. Hennessy asked what else could be included in the parade. Ms. Laufer noted there are dog programs in Recreation and many people bring their dogs. Why not include them.

Mr. Valenti commented crowd control at the graveside is a concern. Maybe have cones or something so people won't stand in the street as the parade is ending. Mr. Hennessy will ask the Fire Police to assist in keeping people off the road.

Mr. Maida asked if we have the bicycle trophies and ribbons. Mr. Hennessy replied yes.

Mr. Valenti asked an email be sent prior to Memorial Day with the revisions from the line of march and the numbers for the lineup. Mr. Hennessy stated yes he will send the information.

Senior News – Ms. Laufer stated a trip 2 night/3 day trip to Boston in May, which is paid for 100% by the Seniors, not the Township. Upcoming trips include Cape May and the Surflight Theater in Long Beach Island.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7 pm.