

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

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: October 7, 2015**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Judy Laufer, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, Chris Adams

Excused Absence: Rich Rehm, John Rocco, A.J. Garito, Joe Mancino, Brian McNally

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from September 2, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

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

Liaison Report – Mr. Hennessy shared an article from the Colts Neck Journal announcing Kathleen Capristo as the new Township Administrator. He added that Beth Kara is now the Township Municipal Clerk, she previously held the title of Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Old Business

Field Maintenance, Fertilizer Update – On October 16 all fenced in baseball fields will be fertilized. Mr. Hennessy stated last year the fields were fertilized twice, Spring and Fall. This year the fields were only fertilized once due to other priorities.

New Business

Stewards of the Park - Mr. Hennessy updated the committee regarding a question Mr. Wild had from the September meeting. Thompson Park and Dorbrook Park do have courts available for pickle ball.

The new well behind the Community Center has been completed, which would allow for potential irrigation at Bucks Mill Park.

Mr. Baker commented the woodchuck hole still exists at Township Hall Park. He asked if anything would be done to refurbish the Blind Garden. He recalled it was an Eagle Scout project that had quite a bit of maintenance. Mr. Baker noted, Mr. Rehm assisted the town by moving plants to a hothouse each fall. There are no plans at this time.

Field Maintenance – Mr. Adams explained Five Point Park had 4" weeds in the parking lot prior to soccer opening day. The Department of Public Works mowed once before Labor Day. The Sports Foundation is currently maintaining the soccer area of the park and has been since September. Mr. Hennessy stated Colts Neck High School requested to use the Five Point for lacrosse practice. He denied the request, as the fields are in excellent condition, due to the hard work by the Sports Foundation. Mr. Adams noted during a recent soccer game, the league head referee stated Five Point Park is the nicest park in Monmouth County. Mr. Adams added the Sports Foundation acquired another machine to line fields, and are sharing with football and recreation soccer. Using the machine to line fields takes only 40 minutes. They also purchased a fuel tank from the Department of Public Works. Mr. Maida asked who maintains the light towers. Mr. Adams replied, Public Works. The Township Office of Emergency Management had borrowed the light towers for the Colts Neck Fair, but two were not working. Mr. Adams shared the six are used 2 hours per night 3-4 times a week. They now have a 72" Dixie machine and 2 lining machines that are housed in the shed. He asked Mr. Hennessy to replace the American flag at the park. He asked if the

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Township has an aerator available. Mr. Hennessy indicated we have a heavy duty aerator but for that field the county has one perfectly suited. He had attempted to schedule its use but it is in great demand on the county golf courses.

Refurbishment of Polo Field - The polo field at Bucks Mill will be closed starting this Sunday. The dirt is not as tight as it should be and it's not draining as it should. Mr. Adams asked Mr. Hennessy to advise when the polo field will become available.

Mr. Adams advised Mr. Hennessy of field damage at Cedar Drive lower fields. It appeared vehicles rode on the fields before a storm and created ruts. Mr. Valenti asked if the schools have security cameras. There are cameras, but they do not face the fields, Mr. Hennessy replied. He has written to the Colts Neck Board of Education and has contacted the police department regarding other field damage. He was not aware of the damage at Cedar Drive lower fields.

Mr. Hennessy explained it will cost approximately \$2,300 to fertilize the fenced in fields, and \$6,000 for fenced in fields.

There are a number of meaningful Eagle Scout Projects from Colts Neck Troop 290 that are planned or completed. Wil Lutkewitte has completed enhancements to Schlesinger Preserve including new fencing, landscaping, trail clearing and signage. Greg Penczak is in the process of redesigning and replacing the four grills at the Pavilion at Bucks Mill Park. Rob Hulse is planning new trails, benches, signage, bird houses and entry way at Obre Park. Justin Bakos is planning improvements to Big Brook Park at Hillsdale, including benches, displays and signage. Garry Ruggiero is designing and installing a cement apron at the Community Center to reduce mud and dirt at the front entrance. Tristen Nguyen and Patrick Whalen (Troop 85 in Marlboro) are planning projects in town and Kevin Miner, having completed his Eagle Scout beautification project at Memorial Park, has pledged to keep it maintained during his last two years of high school.

Events

Whispering Pines Art Contest, Mr. Hennessy stated invitations have been sent out and he is moving forward with the contest.

CNSF Fall Baseball/Softball and Soccer, approximately 265 children in Fall travel soccer, with 140 in recreation soccer. The sport is very active this year. Softball has been using the fields at Cedar Drive. They also have a snack shed which they share with soccer. Mr. Adams noted soccer has good solid participation, he credits Alberto Morello and Damon Albano for getting out the information about soccer. He also noted Mr. Art Collier and Mr. Tommy DeNegris are offering soccer clinics every Saturday. Mr. Baker noted it seems soccer has really grown in town in the past ten years. Mr. Adams stated the U.S. Soccer Teams success has increased and the sport has really caught on.

Veteran's Day Ceremony, Ms. Laufer asked if it will be held at Cedar Drive School. Mr. Hennessy replied, yes. It has been agreed to hold the ceremony at Colts Neck High School next year. Mr. Hennessy will be adding plants to make the setting more intimate at Cedar Drive School. He will be in touch with Ms. Vroman, President of the Women's Club regarding the details for the luncheon.

Dog Lure Coursing and Box Racing, continues at Bucks Mill Park until November 1.

Bucks Mill Park Cross Country Races, Cedar Drive School, Colts Neck High School, Monmouth County Middle School Cross Country meet, Colts Neck Police have been notified

In addition, the Community Center is being utilized. PTO is having an adult social this month, and "Trunk or Treat" on October 31st. Wrestling practice will start in November, along with soccer and baseball practice during inclement weather. Mr. Hennessy found the original pamphlet describing the function for the Community Center with sports being one of the many uses.

Ms. Laufer asked if the Township approved the tennis court repairs (\$10,900.00) at the last Township Committee meeting. Mr. Hennessy replied he plans to use capital expenses to repair the Cedar Drive basketball courts, by transferring the monies from the tennis courts to basketball courts with the approval of the Township.

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Ronnie Sullivan shared on September 27 Trail Riders Club held a Hunter Pace at Assunpink in Allentown. On October 25 they will be participating in another Hunter Pace at Bayonet Farm Park. Their Director has been working with Rutgers. They will have their annual brunch at the Colts Neck Inn before the end of the year.

Mr. Wild asked for status on Mr. Engel's report related to deer population. Mr. Hennessy noted the Wildlife Management Committee was a temporary committee set up for only one year.

Senior Citizen Club Report

Ms. Laufer stated they have 275 members. Ninety attend the meeting/luncheon today, 63 received their flu shots. They have several trips planned, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Two River Playhouse and Doolans in Spring Lake in December. Mr. Baker asked the outcome of a cruise the club was planning. Ms. Laufer commented the cruise was separate from the club, she was not a participant in the planning and had no status. Colts Neck police attended a recent meeting to increase awareness of recent telephone scams.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti, adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary