

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – March 4, 2015**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: March 4, 2015**

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

Excused Absence: Joe Mancino, Brian McNally, John Rocco, Chris Adams, A.J. Garito

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 February 4, 2015. (noting corrections from Ms. Laufer)

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Presentation from Colts Neck Trail Riders Club – Ronnie Sullivan, (membership of the club) shared slides of the many activities that take place at Bucks Mill Park. Also attending with Ms. Sullivan, were Carol O'Scanlon, (Vice President), and Julie Richards, (President). This year they have received permits for Bucks Mill Park for their "Poker Run" event on August 1, from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. They are a self sufficient club with approximately 150 members. Twice a year they clear the trails at Bucks Mill Park for riders. They march in the Memorial Day Parade, they provide horses at the Colts Neck Fair, and are involved with St. Jude's charity. They also are participants in a horse research program at Rutgers University. The club has a concern about the metal poles at the upper field in Bucks Mill Park. If a rider is thrown from a horse, the rider could be impaled. Mr. Hennessy stated the poles are there for protection to prevent vehicles from driving through the park. He noted he would be able to place tennis balls on top of each pole. The slides reflected all ages of riders at their events. Ronnie noted "Why are they here tonight", because the club is sponsored by the Recreation Committee. With Polo gone, there is no other equine group in town. They would like Bucks Mill Park to be their home.

Discussion continued about installing a 20 x 80 mm ring at Bucks Mill Park. The ring would need a split rail fence around it. There are many trainers in town, the Township would be able to rent the ring and obtain revenue. The base of the ring would be sand, the only maintenance would be to rake the sand. Mr. Valenti asked what would be done with the horse manure. Julie suggested it be used for fertilizer. Most parks have a sign requesting riders take the manure with them when they leave the park. Mr. Maida asked if the club has any estimates for the ring. Ronnie will obtain estimates for the project. Julie displayed on a map of Bucks Mill Park the trials the club uses. Ms. Sullivan noted approximately 20% of the club are Colts Neck Residents. Ronnie explained many club members board their horses in Colts Neck at the many stables. Many did live in Colts Neck and relocated, but still board their horses here. It's important to keep the horses in Town for the stable businesses. Mr. Valenti thanked the members for their presentation. He asked if they received permits for the August 1 event for Bucks Mill Park are in order. All confirmed they did receive the permits. Mr. Hennessy noted there will be no organized sports in the park that entire day. Mr. Valenti asked if they pay for the permits. The club does not, but they do pay for a fire permit for use of the grills. Mr. Valenti asked what the club believes it means to be sponsored by the Recreation Department. To date, they are a 501C, tax exempt club. To clarify details of their sponsorship, Mr. Hennessy requested a copy of the club's by laws. He will provide sponsorship status at the April Recreation Department meeting. Mr. Valenti noted, in June of 2008, the club attended a Recreation Committee meeting and provided a similar presentation. Mr. Valenti and members of the committee thanked Ms. Sullivan, Ms. O'Scanlon and Ms. Richards for their presentation.

**Old Business**

Stewards of the Park – Ms. Laufer reported the driveway to Bucks Mill Park has many pot holes and is in horrible condition. There were no other park/preserve reports.

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2015 Budget Review - Regular and Capital budgets were submitted to the Township. A review of the Recreation budget, Parks budget and Capital budget with the Township Committee will take place Saturday, March 7 at 11 am. All are welcome to attend.

**New Business**

Earth Week April 19 – April 25 – Mr. Hennessy shared a listing of committee members and their assigned park/preserve. He will contact the volunteer groups assisting in the clean up efforts and provide participation status to each committee member.

Special Events – Mr. Hennessy reviewed the following upcoming events with the committee. Easter Egg Hunt – March 28, Earth Day Week April 19 – 25, Colts Neck Pet Fair May 23 – 24, Memorial Day Parade - May 25, Colts Neck Mavericks Lacrosse tournament, Saturday, May 30, Cole Brother Circus – date(s) to be determined, Fishing Derby – June 6 at Bucks Mill Park, Battle of Monmouth Lacrosse Tournament – June 20 – 21, Summer Camp June 29 – August 7.

Mr. Wild contacted Col. Sfayer to discuss how to make the parade better and he had many ideas. The committee agreed the parade needs to have more children participate. Mr. Valenti noted Mr. Wild would be a great candidate to take charge of suggestions for the parade. Mr. Wild will be in contact with Col. Sfayer. Mr. Hennessy asked all members to keep the ideas coming for the parade. Mr. Maida added children participation is key. Mr. Wild suggested having a Grand Marshall as done in the past. Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee the Mayor selects the Grand Marshal.

Mr. Hennessy noted the Cole Brothers Circus date is to be determined.

**Field Refurbishment Update**

Upper Fields Bucks Mill Park – Mr. Hennessy will be acquiring the use of an aerator to be used to refurbish this field in the Spring. Upper Cedar Drive Field – Non use of the field will help in bringing the field up to a stable condition.

Laird Road 3, 4 water issues will be resolved by the Sports Foundation spending \$30K. Another \$5K on other baseball fields. Five Point needs to return to better shape. Colts Neck Sports Foundation will spend \$6K on dugouts and they will spend \$10K on reconstructing the Green Monster at Laird Road Park. Mr. Hennessy as asked for \$390K in Capital.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated 80 members attended lunch today at the Colts Neck Inn. They are planning a cruise, the location to be determined, and will be funded 100% by the members. They are returning to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in March. They have 254 members, many are new to the club. Some of the members went to Carol Lawrence's home. Ms. Lawrence creates unique stamps used to create note cards. The note cards are given to Military Servicemen, who will then use them to correspond with their families. Next month their membership book should be completed.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary