

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – November 2, 2011**

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

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Jim Valenti

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

Also in attendance: Tom Orgo, Judy Laufer

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Frank Baker at 7:00 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from October 5, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Steward's Reports – Mr. Baker stated he was very impressed with the condition of the Fit Trail at Town Hall. There were a few of sections that were eroded due to weather but all were clearly marked with cones. He continued stating the Blind Garden is in disrepair and asked if it has to stay there. Mr. Hennessy replied no. He has asked the committee for suggestions on how to salvage the garden. Mr. Maida noted he thought someone committed to maintaining the garden in a previous meeting. Mr. Hennessy stated no, that person has not maintained the garden. Mr. Baker concluded that the Children's Garden near the Library looks better.

Mr. Maida stated Memorial Park on Heyers Mill Rd. does have a few trees down that are not critical. It would be nice to have them removed before the winter. Ms. Lesta did not have a park report.

Mr. Wild stated Conover Road was OK.

Ms. Burke reported on Bucks Mill Park by saying the Historical Committee's Halloween party seemed to be a success, some of the grass was worn from the hay rides. Most of the event was cleaned up within a few days, although the bon fire area remained for the Cross Country Meet on Wednesday. She has received complaints on the poor condition of the fields where 3rd and 4th grade children play soccer. She also noted the pot holes remain in the main driveway to the park. Ms. Burke continued by saying there seems to be a lot of activities at the same time at the park which create parking issues. Mr. Hennessy added he parked 500 cars for the Cross Country Meet at Bucks Mill. All agreed the fields at Bucks Mill are in need of maintenance. Committeeman Engle added the Township his looking to have even more events in Colts Neck.

Mr. Piotrowski commented there are trees down along the perimeter of Laird Rd.

Mr. Rehm stated there are trees down at Freer Preserve, many are diseased Hemlock trees. The trash and recycle containers have been emptied. As he's noted at past meetings, the embankment is very steep, would it be possible to post a warning sign at the entrance of the park. Mr. Engle suggested any types of signs should be reviewed by the Township attorney in case of liability.

Mr. McNally stated Obre Preserve looks good, the sign is faded; he will follow up with a high school student who was interested in revising the sign for community service hours. A November overnight camp out is being planned at Obre Preserve. Once the date is set, Mr. Hennessy will advise Mr. McNally.

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Mr. Mancino agreed with the report Mr. Piotrowski already stated about Laird Road. Ms. Burke asked if the snack shed was completed at Laird Road. Mr. Hennessy said it is very close, once the roll up door is secured it will be good to go. Mr. McNally commented the shed looks nice. Ms. Burke asked if there are bathrooms in the snack shed, Mr. Hennessy stated not yet.

MCICCL Championship cross country meet was held at Bucks Mill with 400 runners and 500 cars. Mr. Hennessy parked the cars behind the Community Center and along the sides. Ms. Burke asked if the parking was part of their fee. Mr. Hennessy stated a requirement for the event was to have five parking attendants; he did not park the cars alone. He also has the courses clearly marked. Ms. Burke noted the piece of fence was removed for the runners to run through will that be returned. Mr. Hennessy will return it.

Referendum on Open Space – Mr. Hennessy shared his sample voting ballot with the committee reminding them to vote on November 8. Mr. McNally asked if Mr. Engle has any sense how the Referendum is going. Mr. Engle has no sense of if it will pass or not, but it has prompted numerous discussions with residents. He commented if the referendum does not pass it will be status quo, if it does pass the governing body has flexibility. There will be dedicated money for open space. He commented both sides of the referendum are being covered very well in local publications. He added the Township is experimenting with outside companies collecting brush. Ms. Burke asked why residents can't drop off their own brush. Mr. Engle stated maybe that will happen. We will still have a crew in the Department of Public Works to do what is needed throughout the Township. Even if we had a few more Public Work employees, we still would not have enough to collect brush. He added the governing body is also looking to have Public Works set up to receive brush from landscapers, since many residents in the Township utilize landscapers to maintain their yards.

Kiefco Shed Completed – The Eagle Scout project by Ken Davis is completed. Mr. Hennessy explained there will be no more hauling of the Kiefco unit between DPW and Five Point. The Sports Foundation donated the \$2,300 for the cost of the project.

New Business

Community Band Concert 11/3 – Mr. Engle asked how the Community Band is surviving. Mr. Hennessy stated they are accepting donations and not charging for concerts. They have several donors and are functioning. The Band realized what it would take to keep going after the Township could no longer afford to sponsor them. In viewing their program several local businesses are mentioned as sponsors.

Whispering Pines Art Contest – Mr. Hennessy stated the contest is underway with the deadline extended to November 10, with the award ceremony on November 18 at the Library.

Veteran's Day, 11/11/11 at 11 am Township Hall – Due to the Teachers Convention, schools will be closed on Veteran's Day, unfortunately there will be no Cedar Drive choir or children involved. Ms. Burke asked if the date could be changed. All agreed that is not possible. Mr. Hennessy explained this year Earle will be providing a speaker.

Holiday Festival Program – Mr. Hennessy asked if all were OK to have the same assignments as last year or the Tree Lighting. All agreed. Mr. McNally will be taking over the hot chocolate assignment from Ms. Lesta. Both will discuss the details in the coming weeks. Mr. Hennessy will purchase all hot chocolate supplies. Mr. Baker asked if the Dance Troup will be participating. Mr. Hennessy said yes, he is also having St. Mary's Youth Choir as part of the program. Mr. Engle noted there seemed to be confusion as to where Santa was going to be last year and asked due to the cold could Santa be moved indoors. The committee agreed if the temperature drops below 10 degree Santa would be moved to inside the courthouse. Mr. Maida and others noted there was no confusion as the only place Santa goes is the gazebo in front of Town Hall. He did say last year the truck could not make the correct turn. Mr. Rehm reminded the committee last year the microphone was not working that well. Mr. Maida will try to borrow

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speakers and hook up with the amplifiers the Dance Troup uses to have a similar sound set up to the 9.11 ceremony.

Community Center Winter Use – Mr. Hennessy shared the numerous organizations utilizing the building during the winter months. American Youth Football Cheerleaders, Sports Foundation Wrestling, Troop # 290 Boy Scouts every Wednesday, and our Dog Obedience classes only during inclement weather. These organizations save money by using the building and Recreation benefits with building use offsets the heating costs. He also will be having the Sports Foundation indoor soccer program use the building for light drills and practices. This will be done on a “test” basis. Ms. Burke mentioned at times the building is very cold or too hot, is there a timer on the thermostat. Mr. Hennessy stated he and Mr. Thompson, Director of Public Works, go to the building on a regular basis to regulate the thermostat. People have programmed the heating by disengaging the programmed timer.

Laird Road Parking Lot – There is some capital money to make the parking safer for the children, Mr. Hennessy shared plans drawn by Mr. Garito. The plans illustrate the expansion of the driveway and additional parking.

Winter Brochure – Mr. Hennessy stated the brochure will be mailed out to all residents between Christmas and New Years Day. For Winter, new programs will be advertized such as a “Mother and Daughter” Zumba class.

Miscellaneous – Mr. Hennessy expressed appreciation for Glen Dalakian’s donation of a wired microphone for use at the Community Center.

Documented plans for the Laird Rd. parking were viewed by the committee; Mr. Piotrowski asked if the playground equipment was moved, he didn’t see it in the plans. Mr. Hennessy said the playground was still in place, but may be moved closer to the snack shed.

Mr. Hennessy mentioned Governor Christie is considering privatizing concession areas in New Jersey parks. Mrs. Burke compared the cost of Sandy Hook being \$10/car to similar parks in Staten Island, Long Island which charge \$5.00/car. Why does New Jersey charge so much. She continued how parks are our great resource and should be free.

Mr. Hennessy will have a high school student interested in landscaping from the Colts Neck High School S.T.E.P. program assist in park maintenance at during the last week of November.

Ms. Laufer stated there was a Senior Citizen meeting today, one of the members in attendance is 102 years young. The club has 280 members, the Christmas luncheon will be held at the Molly Pitcher Inn.

Mr. Baker asked of Mr. Orgo had anything to add tonight, he stated he was attending to listen only.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary