

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – January 6, 2010**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: January 6, 2010**

Attendees: Frank Baker, Joe Mancino, Rich Rehm, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Candice Burke, A.J. Garito, Leonor Lesta, Brian McNally, Paul Wild

Absent: Ed Piotrowski (excused absence)

Township Liaison: Mike Fitzgerald

Also in Attendance: Judy Laufer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Valenti at 7:30 p.m.

The Committee approved the December meeting minutes

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Mr. Valenti welcomed Brian McNally as the new committee member, and Mike Fitzgerald as the new Township Liaison. Both Brian and Mike spoke about their involvement in other Colts Neck organizations and expressed their enthusiasm to be part of Recreation and Parks activities.

Old Business

Holiday Festival Concert – Mr. Hennessy reported the Colts Neck Community Band brass ensemble was a success with over 40 spectators in attendance at the court house. After 30 minutes of playing inside the court house, the group went outdoors to entertain the crowd awaiting for the festivities to start. Ms. Burke asked if the entire concert could be held outdoors. Ms. Lesta commented years ago it was held outdoors but the temperatures were too cold for the musicians. Mr. Maida commented that maybe next year they could lessen the time between songs, it seemed like there was a lot of "dead air".

Holiday Tree Lighting - Mr. Hennessy thanked Mr. Maida, Mr. Rehm, Mr. Wolf, Ms. Lesta and Ms. Burke for their assistance with the event.

Letters to Santa – Mr. Hennessy stated the department received over 100 letters to Santa, Ms. Burke assisted Ms. Byrne with the event. Ms. Burke suggested next year we implement Santa letters via email, in addition to the paper letter writing. Children's Holiday Workshop – Mr. Hennessy reported 16 children attended the Holiday Craft workshop. Different stations were set up and 3 different crafts were completed by the children.

New Business

Mr. Hennessy had copies of the Winter program guide that was mailed December 23. Several new programs have been added to the Winter program guide - Zumba at your Pace (slower version), Time to Tone (30 min. program), February Fossil Month lecturer, Conover Elementary students and teachers as well as Library involved with presentation at Primary Road school scheduled on February 25. Lacrosse Goalie clinic led by CNHS coach Jeff Rosenberg, Indoor Water Park trip (Sahara – Sams - located outside of Cherry Hill), Teen Snow tubing at Camelback, PA, and Colts Neck Strummers Club led by B. Jay Willis.

Mr. Hennessy noted while the temperatures are below freezing outside, he has booked the Summer Camp Beach trips at Seven Presidents Park this week. He is in the process of compiling the Recreation and Parks Budgets for 2010. Mr. Hennessy stated he will be attending an Inclusion Course on January 27. Many families move to Colts Neck due to the school system being so wonderful helping handicapped and/or challenged children, attending an Inclusive training course will prepare us for our summer day camp program.

Mr. Hennessy explained the departments' participation with the Freehold High Schools' S.T.E.P. (Student Transition Employment Program). The program prepares high school graduates to enter the workplace by placing them in real work scenarios. This fall a student spent a few hours each week working at our building

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at Heyers Mill. His assignments included, planting flower bulbs, cleanup the inside and outside of Heyers Mill. He also ventured to several parks for clean up and painted bleachers. Overall, it was a very successful effort, and will likely continue with students participating this Spring, Summer and Fall under Mr. Hennessy's supervision.

Many of the projects completed this year would not have been possible without donations from various residents. Mr. Hennessy acknowledged the following donations: Tommy McGuire – firewood for Summer Camp overnight trip, Glenn Axelrod – 10 used computers (1 computer for Mr. Hennessy and the other 9 going to the Township), Kevin Ayers – lettering and decals for donated school bus, Sal Barbagallo – painting of the donated school bus, Col. Jim Sfayer – paint and supplies for Recreation center, Carl Accetola – a high definition digital camcorder (for summer day camp use)

Mr. Hennessey reported he will be going before the Township Committee next month to present a Township Ordinance for implementation of fees for all park/preserves and facility usage. We have received a few calls this week asking for field permits for Spring, he stated. Mr. Valenti asked what the charge would be for field use. Mr. Hennessy has been in contact with neighboring townships to obtain their process and fee schedules. Mr. Hennessy said \$40/game, he also added all Colts Neck teams and in-town organizations would be free and have priority to fields. All future cross country track meets would also be charge \$500-\$600. All proceeds would go into the Township General Fund. Mr. Garito asked how the fee policy would be monitored. Mr. Hennessy stated the fee policy will be posted on signs at parks, preserves and facilities before the policy is implemented. And payment will need to be received before any permit is issued. Mr. Maida asked how the policy will be monitored. Mr. Hennessy explained the police department receives copies of our permits via email, making them aware of who should be using the fields. Ms. Burke asked if we pay to use the fields at Earle. Mr. Hennessy stated yes, we do pay to use the fields at Earle for our Men's Softball league. Mr. Valenti commented the fee policy will be a challenge to monitor. Mr. Fitzgerald noted it would be made clear for groups to not outsource field use to non-permit groups.

2009 Year in Review – Mr. Hennessy shared a document listing all of the achievements completed from the Department for the year.

Recreation

Solicited donations of a school bus, its painting and lettering for summer camp

Instituted a new attendance policy for Recreation Committee

Promoted a Paperless Environment

Incorporated 15 Members of CNHS track team as mentors for Jr. Olympic Track and Field Meet

Hosted the prestigious Shore Conference Cross-Country Meet at Bucks Mill

Implemented a self funding policy for fitness classes

Provided senior citizen exercise programs

Moved the Fishing Derby to Bucks Mill Park

Established Counselors in Training Program for Summer Camp

Increased trip activity and introduced guest lecturers at summer camp

Instituted Colts Neck Community Band Brass Ensemble for Tree Lighting Ceremony

Upgraded Recreation Center Building

1. Replaced side door
2. Added eight mirrors

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3. Installed exercise bars
4. Spackled and painted
5. Raised overhead lights and added new
6. Installed suggestion box

Parks

Founded Earth Day Celebration clean up of Township Parks/Preserves properties.

Established a stewardship program - Adopt a Park/Preserve

Initiated a Field Numbering System

Repaired Laird Road Tennis Court

Managed the restoration of Five Point Park Including:

1. Redressing of soccer fields
2. Irrigation of baseball and soccer fields
3. Sodding of the 90' baseball diamond

Five Point Park

Turf installation

Miscellaneous

Joined the CN Business Association

Appointed to the Colts Neck High School Principal's Advisory Team.

Selected to participate in FRHS Student Transition Employment Program (S.T.E.P.)

Obtained ten donated computers for Township use

Mr. Hennessy also introduced another document of 2010 Projects for Recreation and Parks.

**Colts Neck Recreation and Parks Department
Projects for 2010**

Community Center at Bucks Mill Park

1. Recondition floor
2. Install eight ceiling fans
3. Install clock

Recreation Center

1. Update lighting fixtures down stairs and front entry carpet side door entrance
2. Install solar walkway lights
3. Install front and flag pole combination light
4. Build 10'x10' storage closet

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5. Refinish office floor
6. Paint office
7. Wax recreation room floor
8. Install alarm
9. Install new phone system
10. Install clock
11. Replace sign posts
12. Purchase two computer chairs
13. Purchase file cabinets
14. Carpet side door entrance
15. Add eve vents to Recreation Center

Five Point Park

1. Purchase two sheds for protecting irrigation electronics and install thermostatically controlled ventilation fans
2. Purchase drag mat

Bucks Mill Park

1. Install replacement slide and ladder
2. Extend Bucks Mill Roadway between #2 & #3 fields
3. Replace set of soccer goals
4. Paint Block Building
5. Revise field use signs

Obre Road Preserve

- Replace gate posts

Schlesinger Preserve

- Install Bridge to Big Brook

Freer Nature Preserve

- Repair fence

Laird Road Recreation Area

1. Replace fence cap #1 Field
2. Replace damaged fence first base side and toward right field
3. Replace fence between fields #3 & #4
4. Install post and rail fence behind backstop of #1 field

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5. Install post and rail between parking lot and fields #3 & #4

Establish Fees for facilities

Summer Camp

- Acquire, paint and letter school bus

Community Band

- Purchase six, seated risers and transport cart

Discussion regarding the fuel costs at the Community Center led to Mr. Maida asking if a timer was used to control heat. Mr. Hennessy replied yes, there is a timer on the thermostat. Additional comments concerning the Laird Road parking, installing rail post fencing was a good idea. Most felt it was needed to prevent cars from traveling along the fields, rather than parking and walking to the back fields at Laird Rd. Mr. Garito suggested Cedar Drive softball fields be re-graded. He was involved in the engineering of those fields, and noted the dips where water pools. He suggested additional soil be added.

Mr. Baker asked the committee to consider moving the Committee meetings from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm. The committee had planned to change the start time last year, but Mr. Florek our Liaison at the time, was unable to return to Colts Neck by 7:00 pm due to his commute from NYC. After checking with Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. McNally both can make the meeting by 7:00 pm, the entire committee agreed to **start all future meetings at 7 pm.**

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Fitzgerald for any news from the Township Committee. He commented the Township Committee has new members and it seems like the group will be helping to renew energy into the Township. He stated he is excited to be a part of this committee, and asked for members to feel free to call or email him with ideas or questions regarding the Township.

Ms. Laufer explained 200 Seniors signed up for the club. She also shared upcoming trips which are published in the Senior Newsletter.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary