

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – March 3, 2010**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: March 3, 2010**

Attendees: Frank Baker, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Leonor Lesta, Brian McNally, Paul Wild, Ed Piotrowski

Absent: Joe Mancino, Rich Rehm, A.J. Garito

Township Liaison: Mike Fitzgerald

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

The Committee approved the February meeting minutes

The Treasurer's Report was read

**Presentation to Dwight Wolf**

**Old Business**

Update of Winter Programs - Mr. Hennessy stated our Fitness Instructors consider our building the "best exercise studio", this past weekend we hosted a Nia workshop for Instructors. Thirty students participated in a workshop with our own Instructor and other Nia Instructors on Sunday. In May we plan to host a two day National Training Workshop. Certified Fitness Instructors will be attending from all over the country in conjunction with NETA (National Education Training Association). February 18 was the date for the Community Band concert which was postponed from the February 11 due to weather. Mr. Hennessy stated this was the best performance to date and looks forward to receiving the band's CD. Fossil Month – Mr. Hennessy stated due to the weather the Fossil Lecture has been postponed until Fall, and will be coordinated the elementary school's fossil curriculum. Conover Road Elementary student's fossil collections were on display during the month of February and displays were rotated weekly at the Library. The postponement will provide better coordination with the schools and also lend to an organized a seminar for the many Fossil experts Mr. Hennessy has been communicating with during the project and who plan on participating in the event.

**New Business**

Mr. Hennessy reviewed the upcoming Spring Recreational Programs including a Trip to Broadway which is scheduled for April 28. Mr. Wild asked if the brochure was printed yet. Mr. Hennessy said indicated, it will be printed early next week. Special Events for Spring were reviewed with Earth Week scheduled from April 17 through to April 24. Committee Member assignments from last years town wide clean up will be distributed via email. Each member maintains their assignment with Mr. McNally assigned Obre Preserve. Colts Neck Gallop is scheduled for May 15 and will consist of 3 races, a 5K, 10K and a 1.5 mile. Mr. Hennessy has formed a committee of Colts Neck runners; their first meeting is tomorrow evening. He has decreased the Township stipend for the Sports Foundation to pay for the costs of the 5K run. Most of the proceeds from the 5K run will to the Sports Foundation with a portion to Pop Warner. The 10K proceeds will go directly to the Township. If all goes well, Mr. Hennessy plans to add a Dog Walk in 2011. The 10K will begin at Township Hall and the other two races will be held at Bucks Mill Park.

**Park Projects**

Field Permit Update – most fields will be utilized by the Sports Foundation, the remaining fields will be permitted for use by other organizations that have used our fields in the past. Mr. Hennessy continued by stating there is a potential for the Township to obtain \$8-\$10K of revenue if field fees are implemented. He also asked Mr. Fitzgerald to discuss with the Township Committee the possibility of renting out the Community Center, currently only non-profit groups use the facility. Mr. Hennessy would like to install ceiling fans at the facility for approximately \$1,800 which would keep the heat costs down by circulating air in the

## **Colts Neck Recreation Committee Minutes – March 3, 2010**

facility. The return from this investment may be substantial to the township if renting out the facility is permitted. Mr. McNally asked if the department receives inquiries to rent out the space. Mr. Hennessy replied yes, all the time. A question regarding maintenance/cleaning of the facility should it be rented out, Mr. Hennessy would impose a cleaning fee. Spring Field Preparation – given the weather there has been no field preparation, Mr. Hennessy stated. Ms. Burke noted the massive tree clean up Public Works has been doing these past weeks. All agreed, many areas are in need of being cleared prior to any type of field preparation. Laird Road Construction – Mr. Hennessy has seen the preliminary drawings for the snack shed and this project is moving forward.

2010 Recreation and Park Budget Update – Saturday March 6 starting at 9:30 – 10:15 Recreation and Park budgets will be discussed along with Capital projects. All are invited to attend this public session. Mr. Hennessy met with Mr. Bowden this morning to review his recommendations to the Recreation and Park budgets.

Mr. Hennessy provided the committee a summary of his recent attendance at the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association's convention in Atlantic City. Monmouth County Parks paid for most of his costs to attend the convention, with the Township paying for his lodging for the two nights. He attended workshops which included "Get Communities off the Couch" to "Stress Management". By implementing information from the convention he will be able to continue to add new programs to the department.

### **Other**

Summer Day Camp dates June 28 – August 6, Mr. Hennessy has many trips planned. Unlike last year, most trips will be closer to Colts Neck and more affordable. He discussed costs of bus services with Mr. Bowden, specifically the cost of having an outside bus company vs. our own buses. Mr. Hennessy would like permission to obtain another school bus from the Board of Education. The cost would include \$600 for tires and \$800 for paint. Last year the bus was painted by volunteers, this year he is looking to have Freehold Regional Vocational School paint the bus. Ms. Lesta mentioned Brookdale Community College has an automotive department that maybe able to paint the bus. Discussion continued regarding camp, snow days have been added to the school calendar which may impact our Day Camp. Mr. Hennessy added he may be increasing the registration fees for the Day Camp by \$20.00, bringing the fee from \$310.00 to \$330.00 for the first child, \$295 to \$315 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> child and \$280 to \$300 for the third child. Mr. Fitzpatrick advised to be mindful of increases, as the economy is not good this year. Mr. McNally added the Sports Foundation has increased all of their registration fees this year, based on discussions with surrounding towns. Mr. Piotrowski mentioned Marlboro's Day Camp is \$800.00 for the season. (6 hours/day vs. Colts Neck 4 hours/day)

2010 Memorial Day Parade – Mr. Hennessy stated our April meeting will include review of the Line of March. Ms. Burke asked if there would be a Grand Marshal? Mr. Hennessy said invitations have been sent out but would rather not comment.

Mr. Hennessy shared information concerning Pop Warner which has been paying \$20K to the Colts Neck High School to play games on their fields. However, they cannot have music during the games, given noise issues, only cheering by the cheerleaders. He has negotiated with Monmouth County Parks for Dorbrook Park to be the home field for our Pop Warner organization. Ms. Burke commented that is amazing as Monmouth County Parks are not permitted to offer County parks as home fields of Township sports. Pop Warner will be able to save a portion of the \$20K and apply it to improving the upper field at Cedar Drive, which would become their home field. Ms. Burke asked if they will be paying a fee to use Dorbrook Park, Mr. Hennessy replied yes, that amount as not been determined yet. Mr. Hennessy had an idea to have the Township Hall ponds spoils removed and transported to the Pop Warner field. Currently, the dredging plans have been put on hold. The field still needs to be lengthened about 10 feet. Moving dirt would help create a true field. He believes CMX – Baypoint Engineering has the original drawings which Mr. Garito has updated.

Our April 7 meeting will include a presentation from Art Goodwin, Polo Club.

Schlesinger Bridge Update – Mr. Valenti and Mr. Hennessy shared the drawings for a fiberglass bridge which would be built over the existing structure with a 50" span with ramps at both ends of the bridge. Mr. Valenti is

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – March 3, 2010**

exploring alternatives to make the bridge more rustic, rather than having a fiberglass bridge in the middle of the woods. This bridge would provide access from Schlesinger Preserve to Big Brook. The Schlesinger family donated the monies to the Township as a trust for this bridge. Ms. Burke commented a bridge would be a nice addition to the Preserve.

Stewardship of the Parks/Preserves Report – Mr. Hennessy asked if anyone had critical items from the Park/Preserves. There were no comments.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated a club luncheon in Matawan had 112 attendees today. The trip to Renault Wintery was cancelled as they were the only group attending that day. They've substituted the date with a trip to Atlantic City. The club President implemented new rules for Golden Seniors who would now need to provide payment for events if they sign up and not attend. The Club is responsible to pay for luncheons.

Mr. Fitzgerald advised Mr. Hennessy he will be walking into a difficult time at Saturdays budget meeting. The Township did lay off one employee from Public Works. They have also agreed to stop funding travel costs for training and/or conventions. The good news may be if we can bring in revenues from field fees. Ms. Burke asked Mr. Fitzgerald if the Township will be having fireworks this year. He replied, the Township is looking for sponsorships for the fireworks, and they are in discussions with the Colts Neck Business Association too. Everything is on the table in terms of budgets.

Mr. Wolf was presented with a plaque from Mr. Valenti and Mr. Hennessy for his dedicated 10 year service on the Committee. Mr. Wolf reflected highlights of the 10 years, including serving hot chocolate at the tree lighting, Memorial Day Parades, etc. The committee all agreed he will be missed.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary