

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: July, 12, 2006

Attendees: Frank Baker, Ed Piotrowski, Dr. Harold Nolan, Rich Rehm, A. J. Garito, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida

Absent: Bruce Bennett, Art Goodwin, Joe Mancino, Leonor Lesta, Dwight Wolf

Township Liaison Present: Tom Hennessy

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Frank Baker at 7:05 p.m.

Summer Programs

Day Camps

Dr. Nolan provided an update of the Summer programs, Day Camps have approximately 405 children this year. A slight decline in last year's numbers. However, the results run parallel with the ratio of enrollment in the schools. This year the older groups have the most children (grades 6-8). Mr. Baker received a call from Mrs. Engle regarding the Philadelphia Zoo trip today. Apparently the children had only 45 minutes at the Zoo due to a bus breaking down on the way to Philadelphia? Dr. Nolan replied, unfortunately this did happen on the way to the Zoo. Another bus was dispatched and the trip was continued.

Instructional Programs

All programs are underway for Summer, with the exception of Youth Tennis which begins in August.

Softball Leagues

Season is going along well with 8 Men's teams and 14 Women's teams.

Dr. Nolan noted, usually Sports Foundation activities wind down the end of July and the Women's softball request field access. This year the Sports Foundation activities (i.e. tournaments) have extended for a few more weeks making field availability at a premium, and not permitting the Women's softball to gain field access until August. It makes us aware of how valuable the new fields at Five Point Park are to the Township.

July 4th Fireworks

Most people in attendance agreed the program was great, per Dr. Nolan. The program was a bit shorter than last year, and Dr. Nolan will look to better the finale next year. Mr. Maida commented some of the fireworks did not go off in the beginning, which may have shortened the program.

Adult Concert

Tonight the Swing Band is performing in front of Township Hall.

Fishing Derby

The 28th Annual Fishing Derby will take place on Saturday, July 15. Our resident Supervisor Mr. Hennessy will be present to ensure the logistics of the event along with Dr. Nolan. Mr. Baker asked if the pond at Township Hall is stocked? Dr. Nolan explained the state will not stock the pond until we dredge it, which according to Mr. Mc Bride is approximately 2-3 years away. Dr. Nolan noted about 100 fish will be caught on Saturday, which has been the case in past years.

Park Maintenance

Dr. Nolan reported general maintenance is being done at the parks. Wood was put around the Pavilion at Bucks Mill, basic painting, liming is being done.

Eagle Scout Projects

Two major projects are near completion, Dr. Nolan stated. The Blind Garden behind the Library is finishing up with the installation of fencing around the perimeter in the works, as well as actual Braille signs from the NJ Association of the Blind. This will allow blind participants to read the labeled signs on the plants. Mr. Lesi and his son have been forging ahead to complete the project, and have submitted the project to Boys Life Magazine for a potential feature story (Dr. Nolan commented, if chosen the magazine would be visiting

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Colts Neck). Mr. Baker asked if this garden was very unique or are there others in NJ? Dr. Nolan replied it's unique in that a municipality is maintaining the garden. It's probably the only one in NJ. A dedication is also planned for mid August or early September.

The flagpole with lights at Five Point Park is also nearing completion. Matt Loving is the responsible Eagle Scout. A path around the pole was built and the flag will be lit behind the sign at the park. Recreation and Parks provided the crushed stone for the path, donated asphalt finished off the path. The scouts dug a trench for the electric, which may be of value if in the future an underground sprinkler system is installed.

Cedar Dr/Conover Rd. Baseball Field Renovations

Conover Rd. – benches, bleachers backstops will be replaced at the existing locations at the field. Sports Foundation will provide funding for fencing (approx. \$14,000).

Cedar Dr. is a bit more complicated per Dr. Nolan, in that the two fields will be reconstructed. A grader will be rented, Taylor Fence will be the vendor providing backstop and fencing along the baseline. Sports Foundation will providing the funding for 1 set of bleachers (\$3,500/set) the other 5 will be funded by Recreation and Parks.

The last week of July the Sports Foundation will be taking away the backstops etc. The first week of August the fields at Cedar will be graded. Dr. Nolan continued, the estimated completion is September 1 for all fields.

Mr. Baker inquired about the playground renovation at Conover Road? Dr. Nolan understood the playground equipment should be removed this week, if not by next week. Dr. Nolan also stated this renovation would be a good opportunity to redesign the school park complex, including relocating the new playground in a more central access area for both Primary and Elementary schools at Conover Road, as well as give consideration to the replacement of two tennis courts.

New Business

Dr. Nolan mentioned the 28th Annual 10K Road Race is scheduled for September 10 and the 12th Annual Whispering Pines Art Contest will be in October. Last year over 40 entries were received.

Our Fall brochure is planning to be distributed the first week of September.

The committee agreed not to have a meeting in August.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne
Secretary