

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – December 2, 2009**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski, Rich Rehm, Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Candice Burke, A.J. Garito, Dwight Wolf, Leonor Lesta

Absent: Paul Wild (excused absence)

Township Liaison: Ken Florek

Also in Attendance: Judy Laufer

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

The Committee approved both October and November meeting minutes

The Treasurer's Report was read.

**Old Business**

Whispering Pines Art Contest – The article, submitted to the Colts Neck Calendar and The Journal, was shared with the committee. Mr. Hennessy explained that each finalist this year received a ribbon and plaque. Mr. Maida presented the monetary prizes to the adult division winners and awards to the Youth winners. He will continue as Chairman of the Whispering Pines Art Contest. Mr. Hennessy will be contacting Art Associations and Art Schools within Monmouth County to promote next years contest with the intent to increase participation. Ms. Lesta commented of SCAN in Eatontown, a senior organization that may be interested in participating in the contest.

Mr. Hennessy continued by reporting on this year's Veteran's Day Ceremony. The wreath was placed at the Memorial Cemetery on Heyers Mill Road after the ceremony and is still in great condition. He will be thanking Colonial Florist for the wonderful wreath. It was a nice turn out and lunch was provided by the Women's Club.

The eighth grade choir from Cedar Drive School sang.

2010 Budget documents for both Recreation and Parks are a work in progress. Mr. Bowden advised Mr. Hennessy to keep the detailed line item budget document out of the Township process. Mr. Hennessy will be revising the past line item budget documents for the Recreation Department and the Parks Department to maintain continuity in preparing the budget for Mr. Bowden. Mr. Hennessy mentioned Capital items from last year's list for the Recreation building included new sinks and toilets with a cost of \$5,000 were listed. Mr. Olson of Public Works applied a solution to all fixtures and they are now much improved, saving the \$5,000.

**New Business**

Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee that Tree Lighting ceremony and Concert program will be held this Sunday, December 6. He confirmed that the Navesink Band will not be providing music this year, but that the Colts Neck Community Band have created a brass ensemble that will be providing the music and a local touch. Ms. Burke asked if the band will be playing both inside and outside this year. Mr. Hennessy said yes, he is having the ensemble come outside after approximately 30 minutes. The committee reviewed the Tree Lighting program agenda. Ms. Leonor mentioned the need for electrical cords for the hot chocolate. Mr. Maida will be providing electrical support on Sunday. Mr. Hennessy continued stating the Girl Scouts will be involved this year by leading the flag salute and distributing candy canes. He asked the committee for volunteers to assist on Sunday. Mr. Rehm, Mr. Maida and Ms. Burke volunteered. Mr. Baker noted he saw trees partially lit at Town Hall over the past weekend. Mr. Hennessy explained he and Mr. Maida tested the lights this afternoon and determined there is a need for some repairs.

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### New Winter programs

Several new programs for Winter include: Total Body Conditioning will be taught by two of our current Instructors, and Zumba at Your Pace, geared at a slower pace than normal Zumba classes.

Mr. Hennessy noted an excellent article in Time magazine encouraging exercise for senior citizens and how important it is for prolonged health. He hopes more senior citizens will register in the upcoming Zumba program. Mr. Hennessy stated with the poor registration of this years Ski Trip, he will be replacing the 2010 Teen Ski Trip with a snow tubing trip to Camelback Mountain. Ms. Lesta commented of Teen Night at the Baptist Church, and asked if anyone know of the outcome from last Tuesday night. No one had comments. Mr. Hennessy will be negotiating the cost of the trip, he estimated it would probably be approximately \$30.00.

Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Lesta to provide a report on the NYC trip to Broadway for Finian's Rainbow. She received good feedback from all participants. Most asking when will there be another trip. The bus driver was great. Overall the trip went very smoothly. A side note, Mr. Hennessy is looking to obtain a 2nd school bus from the Board of Education. Having the existing school bus helped in keeping the costs low for the trip to Broadway and summer camp. Another bus would lead to more cost savings for our programs.

Keeping costs down, Mr. Hennessy also stated having the Community Band Brass Ensemble perform at the Tree Lighting, the department saved \$300 over the cost of the Navesink Brass Band. He may ask the Community Band Brass Ensemble to perform in the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Hennessy commented the Polo Club in town has donated their old wagon, that partnered with the tractor for the Kifco unit, would create a possible float for the parade.

February Fossil Month – Mr. Hennessy purchased two display cases which will display fossils collected from Big Brook at the library. The librarian and Mr. Huguenin, Principal from Conover Rd. Elementary School, will assist in the fossil display. The display cases will rotate the children's fossils for the month of February. An advocational Paleontologist has committed to be the lecturer.

Improvements to Recreation and Parks Building – Because of programs using fitness balls and jump ropes, a recent safety issue arose with the low hanging lighting in the exercise area. Mr. Hennessy explained the existing lighting has been raised to be flush with the ceiling. New lights will be added to the 2 office areas.

Ms. Burke asked what time should volunteers be at the Tree Lighting, Mr. Hennessy said between 3:15 and 3:30.

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Florek for any items from the Township Committee. Mr. Florek commented he had no news to share at this time, he did add that he has been made aware that Mr. Wolf will not be seeking another term on the committee. There are several others whose terms will end this month. However, it's his understanding all other members will seek another term on the Recreation Committee. Mr. Hennessy asked Mr. Wolf to return to be properly honored for his service on the committee. Mr. Wolf asked a representative from Pop Warner be considered for the committee. Mr. Mancino suggested Ms. Laufer be considered to replace Mr. Wolf.

Mr. Valenti asked for Senior News from Ms. Laufer. She stated their Senior Yearbook is complete and provided a copy to Mr. Hennessy. Recent trips include Atlantic City and NJ PAC. To date there are approximately 200-225 members. She provided feedback from Wednesday's luncheon at Addison Park in Keyport. Specifically, the Recreation Line Dancing program participants have been practicing to perform a dance demonstration at the luncheon. Ms. Laufer said the group did a nice job.

Traditionally, this weekend would be the dinner at the Shadowbrook for volunteers in Colts Neck. Mr. Baker asked Mr. Florek if the Township Committee is considering a dinner next year at a less expensive cost. Mr. Florek suggested the committee members attend the budget meetings, to provide their input to continue the dinner for volunteers. There are currently no plans for a dinner in 2010.

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Mr. Florek commented he expects in the next months, Pop Warner will be coming to a Recreation meeting to discuss the possibility of the group obtaining their own facilities for football games etc. and they appear to be wanting for dedicated facilities. Mr. Garito stated he believes there is a misunderstanding between the Township Committee, the Recreation Department and Pop Warner in terms of facility requests. He continued that the Sports Foundation would like to attend a Township Committee meeting to seek support for their fundraising efforts to collect 40K to add astro-turf to the Laird Road infields. Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Garito if the other projects are moving forward, such as restrooms at Laird Road, Mr. Garito said yes.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Burke asked the status of the Schlesinger Preserve bridge project Mr. Hennessy stated he's waiting for water levels to become manageable for the project. The new date for delivery of the bridge is August 2010. It is also now an Eagle Scout Project with engineers volunteering time to complete the project, Mr. Valenti being one of those engineers.

Ms. Laufer commented when the Seniors were cleaning up Hillsdale they noted a couple from Connecticut searching for fossils. Mr. Valenti asked what is the amount of fossil use at Big Brook. Mr. Hennessy stated there is no way to mean fully enforce the use of Big Brook. However we have limits on shovels and other rules on our website and on location. There will be a notable item which was found at Big Brook that will be published soon. Once, that happens it will attract more people to Big Brook, Mr. Hennessy stated. Mr. Piotrowski noted many people seem to dig the walls of the brook. Mr. Hennessy explained the process of nature eroding the walls and creating additional fossils.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary