

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – June 7, 2017**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: June 7, 2017**

Attendees: Chris Adams, Frank Baker, Ronnie Sullivan, Rich Rehm, Judy Laufer, Joe Mancino, Paul Wild, Phil Maida

Excused Absence: John Rocco, Brian McNally, D.J. Ten Hoeve

Township Liaison Present: Mr. Eastman arrived at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adams at 7:00 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes of May 3, 2017

**Presentation by Caleb Sass. Proposed Eagle Scout Project**

Caleb distributed a hand out of his proposed Gaga ball pit project at Bucks Mill Park. He explained he will build a wooden octagon structure near the playground. Gaga ball is basically dodgeball confined to a wooden walled area. Players try to hit each other on the leg, thus eliminating them from the game.

Discussion and questions followed. Chairman Adams thanked Caleb for his presentation. After Caleb left the meeting, the committee discussed the project. The concern was the location of the Gaga ball pit. The suggestion was to have the project located near Conover Road schools to ensure it would be utilized. Mr. Hennessy will contact the Board of Education office to inquire their interest for the project.

**Old Business**

**Critique of Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony, Bicycle Decorating Contest and Fire House**

Mr. Adams thanked everyone involved in making the parade a success, noting there were more participants and spectators than last year. Mr. Hennessy noted thanks to Mr. Adams for involving so many children. Mr. Baker noted it was a good call not to cancel the parade. Ms. Sullivan's own horse and other horses marched in the parade. The issue was the police had let cars travel on Heyers Mill after the parade was done, not realizing the horses with riders were on their way back to the beginning of the parade via Heyers Mill Road. She suggested the Colt Neck Police may not be aware of horse procedures. There is a member of the Trail Riders who would be happy to provide a seminar to educate the police in matters concerning horses, especially when horses get loose. Mr. Adams noted for the 2018 parade, we need to be sensitive to close the parade route and wait till the horse's retreat. Mr. Hennessy will contact Chief Sauter regarding the horse seminar and will advise Ms. Sullivan of any interest.

Mr. Maida asked if the horse trailers could be parked closer to the cemetery. Ms. Sullivan replied logistically impossible, as she is the rider and drives her own trailer, as do others. Mr. Hennessy stated he did write to the police department asking them to close the roads and keep them closed longer than they normally do for the parade, especially with the "pets on parade" and not knowing how successful that might be this year.

Mr. Adams noted next year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earle. We should be able to have more participation in the parade. Ms. Laufer noted Earle is having an open house for all Colts Neck residents.

Mr. Maida explained the CN High School band drove themselves to the parade after finding out the bus was not available. Mr. Maida worked with them to have them join the parade, which was already in progress, along the parade route. Mr. Hennessy stated the transportation office thought the bus reservation was in error as it was on a holiday. Ms. Laufer and others gave credit for the band for their participation. Jack Manaci, Band Director apologized. All noted their goal was to get to the parade.

Mr. Wild expressed his opinion regarding to the selection of a Grand Marshall. He felt no one knew who the Grand Marshal was, if we had the selection done sooner, we could have advertised his name and why he was chosen. He suggested the selection should be made by a group or committee months in advance. Mr. Adams suggesting the selection of a Grand Marshall should be done in January at the Township Reorganization Meeting.

Mr. Maida offered to speak to Major Jack. This doctor had a medical practice which he closed and enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam War. He does not like to get recognition but perhaps he would like to be the 2018 Grand Marshall.

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Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. Hennessy if he contacted the Stewarts about the parade. Mr. Hennessy stated he did write to the Stewarts asking them to participate in the parade and bring any animals they selected to promote their Sanctuary. He did not hear back from them.

### Stewards of the Parks

Ms. Sullivan shared photos she had taken this afternoon at Bucks Mill Park. One photo included the same chairs and metal posts with nails she asked to be removed for safety reasons last year. She stated those chairs are left there by people who walk their dogs in the park. Chairman Adams noted those chairs should be removed from the park. Other photos included construction items from 142 Montrose Road being dumped over the fence onto Bucks Mill Park. She reminded the committee the Trail Riders had the funding to complete the removal of the posts in 2016 and were told by Mr. Hennessy the project would be completed by an Eagle Scout.

While riding her horse this afternoon, she noted loose dogs in the park. There is a Township Ordinance for dogs to be leashed, Mr. Hennessy noted.

Another photo reflected a car driving past the Community Center toward the gate to the upper field, had she not been there this car would have driven up to the upper field. The Township should have parameters for the park, for example, she asked if there were "do not drive" signs on the dirt roads.

Ms. Sullivan also noticed near the Illmenssee property a 20-lb. bag of cement was in the way of DWP mowing the field, instead of the person moving the bag they mowed over the bag, spreading the cement and shredded paper bag over the field.

Mr. Adams asked what should we do to get this issue from Montrose Rd. resolved. Mr. Eastman stated to contact Rich Galinski, Zoning Official, if he is not available, contact Township Administrator Capristo.

Mr. Hennessy provided a history, in that he had contacted Mr. Galinski about the Montrose Rd. issues last year. Mr. Galinski spoke to the owner, who explained she travels and has others keeping watch on the house and was unaware of the workers leaving debris in the park.

Mr. Adams advised DPW is doing the best they can with what they have, there have been noted improvements with new Director Bader. He also agrees the chairs should be removed. Mr. Adams asked Ms. Sullivan if the Trail Riders could complete the project by replacing the benches and remove the metal posts. She replied they would have been able to complete the project in 2016, but not this year.

The Trail Riders have an event at the park on July 22. Mr. Hennessy added he made a mistake in saying no to the Trail Riders to complete the project. If DPW removes the posts it opens up the area for an off-road driving situation. Mr. Adams noted the posts are moved all the time. Mr. Hennessy knows the men that use the chairs, they are assisting him in keeping watch as to what goes on at the park and reports to him.

Mr. Adams asked is there a way to get the area cleaned up before July 22. Mr. Hennessy will ask the Eagle Scout to expedite the project and have it done by July 1. If it is not completed by the Eagle Scout, he will replace the posts.

CNHS PTO Color Run - Mr. Hennessy reported it was a colorful event and nice to see the condition of all of the participants.

Volunteer Handbook – Mr. Adams asked all members present to complete the last page of the handbook and hand to Barbara. All present members completed the forms. Mr. Adams will contact Mr. Ten Hoeve and provide his signature page to Barbara.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Recreation Office Mr. Hennessy read an email from Township Administrator Kathleen Capristo requesting input from this committee, in connection with a proposed new building at Bucks Mill Park, in relation to its future location, functionality and infrastructure, based on the potential relocation of Recreation and Parks Department from its present locations. She asked that consideration be given assessing the short and long-term needs of the community in relation to the proposed structures.

The original proposal was a standalone attachment to Community Center, 50'x 50' with offices, dance floor, bathroom inside and outside entrances, utilizing existing septic and parking. It was determined that the proposed structure infringed on DEP regulations and that a Flood Hazard Permit from the DEP was required.

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He explained that the original objective was to sell 14 Heyers Mill Road for a profit differential along with further savings in maintenance, heating and cooling.

The second proposal was a Community Center type building serving the dual purpose of a Recreation Office and sports center, alongside of entrance to BMP on south side, but was withdrawn for ascetic reasons.

Mr. Hennessy provided the following options for consideration and invited the Committee to offer ideas of their own.

1. Maintain Status Quo- 14 Heyers Mill, Crossroads of Colts Neck, convenient, central, commercial and historical landmark, in general used seven days a week, week days from 8 am until noon and week nights from 6 pm to 9. BMP Community Center used late fall until end of May, from 4 pm until 9 pm weekdays and weekends from 8 am until 1 pm.
2. Moving Recreation Center to Core Center a) near First Aid Squad, b) near Town Hall with a Flood Hazard Permit.
3. Building companion Community Center or Recreation Arena at Five Point Park on the D'Angeles Property, contingent on purchase.
4. Building companion Community Center or Recreation Arena at Bucks Mill Park with or without Recreation Offices/Center.

Mr. Adams noted if the location/building is changed consideration should be given to whether the department will be able to continue to provide activities to the community. He added, building an addition to the present Community Center is not feasible because of the water situation.

Mr. Rehm asked if this idea is cost effective? Mr. Mancino, a realtor, noted it may make sense to obtain a ratable for the Township by selling 14 Heyers Mill Road.

Mr. Adams stated building a field house larger than the Community Center with offices, exercise area, meeting rooms would be inexpensive. Mr. Maida noted if located a Bucks Mill the department would be able to control everything. Ms. Laufer stated there are trailers at Bucks Mill, is anyone using that space. Mr. Hennessy accounted for all of the trailer use.

Committeeman Eastman stated no one as stated if there is anything wrong with the building at 14 Heyes Mill Road. There have been no studies related to it's septic, water etc. and no explanation as to why we need a new building.

Mr. Hennessy stated the DeAngelis property should be part of the discussion. Do we need to expand youth sports and move the recreation office?

Committeeman Eastman stated no one as identified if there is anything wrong with the building at 14 Heyers Mill Road. There have been no studies with anything wrong as it relates to it's septic, water etc. and no explanation as to why we need a new building. It is a historical building too. He suggests the committee document short and long-range plans and include the De'Angeles property.

Mr. Adams noted this committee was always told, the Township is taking funding from Recreation, it is nice to be asked how can we improve Recreation for the Township.

Mr. Hennessy noted once the artificial turf field is installed, he anticipates an increase of use at the park, rendering the current parking lot will insufficient. The town may find Five Point Park a viable location in the future for a sports center. If the need to expand youth sports is determined.

Mr. Adams and the committee agreed, no one can say no to Township improvements but there is more input needed from the Township Committee so that all viable options can be weighed.

### Basketball Courts at Cedar Drive

Mr. Hennessy contacted Principal Rigby at Cedar Drive School inquiring about the use of the basketball courts. Principal Rigby took an internal poll and reported to Mr. Hennessy they are not used and it would be ok to remove the basketball courts. The Board of Education offered no funding for the basketball courts to be replaced or repaired. Mr. Bader, Director of Public Works stated the cost to remove and haul the basketball courts away matches the cost to replace them. Mr. Maida ask why replace if the courts are not used. Mr. Hennessy added while Mr. Bader has

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been training staff at Cedar Drive, he's reported the courts are being used. A question arose, are they playing on the surface of the courts and it's not basketball. Mr. Hennessy had an idea to extend the back and front of the tennis courts and install baskets as courts are oversized. The Board of Education and PTO provide some of the maintenance, the tennis courts at Conover Road are also in need of repair at Conover Road.

Summer Camp – Mr. Hennessy stated the staff has been chosen. Counselors are returning their employee agreements.

Status of Eagle Scout Projects – Mr. Hennessy reported the following projects, the fence around the Community Center, benches and posts at Bucks Mill (as previously discussed), 2 AEDs will be installed at Bucks Mill, one at the flagpole the other near the pavilion, and baseball field #2 benches being replaced.

Presentations for future Eagle Scout projects will be presented to this committee for assessment, before going to the Township committee.

Fall Field Maintenance schedule – Mr. Hennessy would like to set up seeding and fertilizer for the upper field at Bucks Mill each year, as it is used every year. Mr. Adams agreed we need to keep up on maintenance.

Senior Citizen Meeting – Ms. Laufer stated 240 members in the Senior Citizen Club. Today was the monthly meeting/luncheon at the Colts Neck Inn. She shared June 14 is their picnic at Bucks Mill park. Upcoming trips include July 10 Circle Line Cruise, Beach Haven to the Surflight Theater, Sign and Sounds, Canada, and museums. Also noted, many members were upset at today's meeting as Committee Bartolomeo introduced an Assemblyman as a speaker. The club has a rule of not inviting outside politicians as speakers to their meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the July and August meetings.

With no other issues to discuss, Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Our next meeting will be held September 6, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary