

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – March 2, 2011**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Joe Mancino, Jim Valenti, Rich Rehm, Candice Burke, Paul Wild

Excused Absence: Leonor Lesta, Phil Maida, Brian McNally, A.J. Garito, Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from February 2, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

**Old Business**

Stewards of the Park - Mr. Hennessy turned the discussion to Mr. Rehm. He was walking Freer Preserve and observed a bench placed near a 30' drop off at the Preserve. Mr. Hennessy and he moved the bench to a safe location. Mr. Rehm explained Mr. Hennessy will be posting signs to warn the people of dangerous drops. Mr. Hennessy commented he will be meeting with the Township Insurance Group tomorrow and will identify their signage requirements. He also stated that the Boy Scouts will be camping out at Obre Preserve (Mr. McNally's is the Park Steward) the weekend of March 18.

Budget Meeting – Two Special Events items from the Recreation Budget have been eliminated due to budget constraints, they are July 4<sup>th</sup> and the Colts Neck Gallop stated Mr. Hennessy. The good news is the Colts Neck Fair may be a substitute for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks, and the Sports Foundation is discussing the possibility of taking over the Colts Neck Gallop. Ms. Burke asked what are the costs to run these two events from the Township perspective. Mr. Hennessy stated both Pop Warner and Sports Foundation received approximately \$3,500 to split. The expense for the Colts Neck Gallop was approximately \$8,000. Mr. Mancino asked why not cut expenses and still continue the events. Mr. Hennessy stated it is difficult to arrange combined 5K and 10K with people entering and exiting events at one location. (Past discussions included moving the 10K race from Township Hall to the 5K location at Bucks Mill Road). Mr. Valenti asked if it were definite the Sports Foundation would be running the Colts Neck Gallop. Mr. Hennessy said no, it is not definite they are "talking" about it.

Field Permit Fees/Community Center Fees – Mr. Hennessy gave an overview of the proposed field and Community Center fees he presented to the Township Committee. The next step is for the Township Committee to provide a resolution to revise the existing ordinance. If approved, the Community Center rental fees would be: \$600 for use of the building, \$250 for set up, and \$75 clean up fee. Ms. Laufer commented the Township seems to be raising all fees. Mr. Valenti asked how much does the Fire Department charge to rent their banquet room. Mr. Mancino, a member of the Fire Department replied \$900. Mr. Hennessy said he wanted the fee for the Community Center to be within range of other facilities but not take away business from others in the Township.

Field Conditions and Conditioning – Mr. Hennessy attended a Turf Maintenance class at Rutgers University February 24. He said there were great presentations and it was time well spent.

He will also be involved again with the S.T.E.P. program of Freehold Regional High School, students will assist with outdoor projects this summer, working with Public Works. He also announced this Monday a student will be assisting with secretarial work in his office.

Laird Road Irrigation of #1 field – East Coast Irrigation Company will be implementing irrigation, Mr. Hennessy reported. He and Ms. Sheehy met with the company who also provided irrigation at Laird Road

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#1 baseball field. Water will be provided for the infield and part of the outfield. The cement for the Snack Shed foundation will be poured this week. The Sports Foundation is planning to host baseball tournaments at Laird Road to bring in revenue. Mr. Valenti asked about our previous meeting discussions related to the committee to view documented plans for the Laird Road projects, including maps. Mr. Hennessy will add this item to the April agenda. He has also included Capital funding for a pavilion at Laird Road in 2012. Mr. Valenti was specifically speaking about the fencing, parking lot, snack shed location. He also noted the 9.11 monument at Laird Road needs maintenance/watering. Mr. Hennessy ended the discussion stating that Baseball Opening Day is April 9.

Earth Week April 17- April 23 – The committee reviewed 2010 Earth Day clean up assignments. A revised list will be emailed to the committee. Mr. Valenti asked for clean up assistance with his area surrounding Big Brook as did Ms. Burke for Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Hennessy will be contacting St. Mary's Church Youth Group to help with the clean up. Ms. Laufer suggested Mr. Hennessy involve the Reformed Church's Youth Group too. Ms. Burke commented on the installation of several horse jumps on the trails at Bucks Mill, she assumes the Trail Riders were responsible. She commented those trails used by the Trail Riders Club are always kept in great shape. Mr. Baker will contact Mr. Kosta of the Environmental Committee to assist with Town Hall Park. Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Hennessy what is the designated day for the cleanup. Mr. Hennessy said it's a week of clean up, there is no set date. Park Stewards will be contacted by the assigned group, whatever time is convenient for both parties will determine when the cleanup will take place. Ms. Laufer asked about involving the Lion's Club. Mr. Mancino, added that the Lions Club perform their own clean up of Rt. 34. Mr. Hennessy will try to involve groups who utilize the fields/parks. It was also noted Mr. Rigby, Principal of Cedar Drive School has students clean up some of the fields at that location.

Pop Warner has joined the American Youth Football League, with more liberal rules and regulations. Ms. Burke asked if they will be using Dorbrook again. Mr. Engel commented there are discussions for Pop Warner to use soccer field #2 at Five Point for their games this year.

Ms. Burke mentioned an uprooted tree has fallen at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Hennessy will advise Public Works of the issue.

Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 16 with the Child's Craft Workshop taking place later that day.

Summer Camp will run June 27 – August 5. Mr. Hennessy proposed to the Township Committee using an online credit card payment system for all Day Camp registrations and Trip payments. If this is implemented, the process would begin at the end of May. (1 month prior to the start of camp). Ms. Burke asked the Committees' reaction to the online payment plan; Mr. Hennessy said he did not hear any "nays" from the Committee about the idea.

Liaison Report/ Budget Meetings Mr. Engel stated most committees/departments had already decreased their budgets prior to the meetings. He stated, Recreation did very well with their budget discussions.

Mr. Engel continued by stating the Laird Road parking project is deemed a "safety issue" and should be successful. Success should also come from the proposed field fees and fee to rent the Community Center; as this Township Committee will not be opposed to renting out the Community Center to gain revenue.

The increase in permit fees is consistent with surrounding towns. If the Township takes the necessary steps this year related to the budget it will ensure a better future.

Mr. Valenti asked if the Sports Foundation travel soccer will be giving soccer field #2 to Pop Warner for their games. Mr. Engel stated they are discussing sharing the field. Pop Warner may be able to perform excavation to improve the field, and they in turn would use the field for 5 of their games, no practices. He is not sure if this will happen, but there is discussion. Mr. Valenti asked as the last meeting Mr. Hennessy stated he was opening up Five Point Park # 1 and # 2 soccer fields this Spring, is that still on track. Mr. Hennessy said yes. Ms. Burke asked about parking for Pop Warner game at Five Point, how many

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spectators usually attend. Mr. Hennessy stated based on the County statistics, approximately 200 cars. His concern is to ensure there is no spill over to the high school whereas people would cross over to Five Point Park from the high school.

Ms. Burke asked if the Township is still considering on purchasing the property in the middle of Five Point Park. Mr. Engel indicated the Township holds the rights of first refusal and there may be a greater opportunity to purchase the property. However, as mentioned in previous meetings, it may make no sense to purchase the property without the proper maintenance in place.

The biggest issue concerning the Recreation budget is the funding to our Senior Citizen Club, stated Mr. Engel. The members stated if their funding is decreased the organization will be unable to exist. The Township Committee is considering decreasing their funding from the Township from \$40,000 to \$10,000. Discussion followed on this topic. The final budget decision regarding the Senior Citizen club is still pending.

Mr. Valenti asked what happened with the situation with the possibility of losing Public Works employees. Mr. Engel stated 4 employees were layed off due to Union negotiations that did not go well. These employees were not “front line” employees and Mr. Thompson, Director of Public Works assured Mr. Engel that taxpayers would not see any impact on services.

Mr. Valenti expressed concern being the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11 coming up this year, the date is on a Sunday. We have two parks with Memorials in Town. Does anyone know if there are plans as a Township to acknowledge the anniversary? Mr. Hennessy will follow up with Mayor Schatzle.

Mr. Engel asked how Recreation interfaces with the Fair Committee because he believes there to be many synergies. Mr. Hennessy stated he has been on the Fair committee for 20 years and tries to attend meetings when he has no other conflicts. Ms. Burke added the Committee this year has four co-chairs and ten trustees. Their goal is to provide non-profits in the Township a way to make money.

Mr. Hennessy shared the cover of the News Transcript with a photo and article of the Recreation Department's “Cardio Swing Dance” class.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary