

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – December 3, 2014**

**+COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: December 3, 2014**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Brian McNally, Joe Mancino, Rich Rehm, Judy Laufer, Chris Adams, Paul Wild

Excused Absence: Phil Maida, Ed Piotrowski, and A.J. Garito.

Township Liaison Absent: Mayor Russell Macnow

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 November 5, 2014.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Stewards of the Park – Mr. Hennessy stated two students from the Freehold Region District's S.T.A.R. program went to clean up Freer Preserve and found it spotless. Mr. Rehm asked if the fence would be repaired. Mr. Hennessy said he was not sure. It seemed vandalism targeted the fence right in front of them, not to either side. Big Brook Preserve was also clean. There were no additional reports. Mr. Baker will provide a report at the next meeting.

Whispering Pine Art Contest – This year we had twelve entries. Judges from the Art Department at Brookdale College had tough decisions. Mr. Maida was pleased at the participation. Colts Neck High School students submitted art work, as did their art teacher. Mr. Baker asked if the paintings were on display. Mr. Hennessy explained the art work was to be displayed at the Library and at Town Hall, but the Township meeting was cancelled.

Veteran's Day Ceremony – Mr. Hennessy stated the ceremony was held at Colts Neck High School this year in conjunction with the dedication to their Veteran's garden. Mr. Baker noted, being a Veteran, it seemed more emphasis was placed on the day than past years. Mr. Rigby, Principal at Cedar Drive School did not want his students to miss the event. He bused the Cedar Drive chorus and band to Colts Neck High School. Mr. Hennessy brought over 68 chairs from Recreation and noted that were still not enough chairs. The high school supplied additional chairs for this well attended event. Major Penczak did a phenomenal job planning the ceremony. Ms. Laufer noted the statues in the garden represented each branch of service.

Field Maintenance – There have been difficulties at Laird Road # 3. Someone drove a motor vehicle over the field, Mr. Hennessey closed the entrance gates. There has been three similar incidents at Bucks Mill Park on the polo field. Someone has made donuts on the field. They also drove around the locked gate. The Wildcats organization has provided maintenance to the field at their own expense. Mr. Hennessy will identify the cost to repair the field and include that in next year's budget. He has filed a police report related to the incidents.

New Business

Santa's Workshop – December 6 – The free workshop will take place at the Primary School with PTO's Frosty event. The children will be building either a bulb ornament or sleigh.

Letters to Santa - Mr. Hennessy has placed special Santa mailboxes at Town Hall and the Post Office.

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Winter Program Guide has been mailed to all residents. We have not added any new programs but are holding our own. Mr. Mancino asked what revenue is there form Recreation. Mr. Hennessy stated we are not self sufficient in terms of salaries. Our winter revenue comes from permits and fitness classes. Mr. Mancino asked what the expenses are for the department. Mr. Hennessy provided examples such as postage and printer maintenance. Mr. Mancino commented the expenses are minimal.

2015 Recreation and Parks Budgets are due at the end of the month. February 6 they will be presented to the Township Committee.

Tree Lighting – Mr. Hennessy asked who will be attending the event. Mr. Baker, Mr. Valenti, Mr. Wild and Mr. McNally will be in attendance. Pastor Chris of the Community Church will be providing five young people to assist during the event. Mr. McNally and Wild asked to have two assistants with the hot chocolate. Mr. Hennessy would like one assistant to act as a "runner". If it does rain the contingency plan is to have the dancers/singers in the Court House, maybe in shifts if necessary. The Scouts will still have a flag raising outside. The program will be the same. Santa will be set up inside the meeting room at Township Hall. Mr. Mancino asked if the event could be held inside the Community Center. All decided it would not work logistically and there is no outdoor Christmas tree at Bucks Mill. Mr. Valenti suggested someone be assigned at all of the doors at the Court House to provide directions to the attendees. After the meeting Mr. Hennessy will share the hot chocolate shopping list with Mr. Wild.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated 89 attended the luncheon today at the Colts Neck Inn. Trips planned December 18 the Christmas Luncheon at the Molly Pitcher, December 22, Hunterdon Hills Play House. Ms. Laufer shared 38% of their budget is provided from the Township, the remainder is provide from the Senior Citizens.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary