

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – April 1, 2015**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Judy Laufer, Joe Mancino, John Rocco, Chris Adams,  
Brian McNally

Excused Absence: Phil Maida, Rich Rehm, Paul Wild, A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Absent: 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 March 4, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Presentation from Colts Neck Trail Riders Club – Ronnie Sullivan, (Treasurer of the club) shared slides on an HD TV, of the proposed site at Bucks Mill Park for a 100' x 200' Equine ring. The Trail Riders club is asking Recreation to set the property aside for the project. She shared a document detailing the project. Discussion continued related to the soil sample performed, resulting in the site to be Sandy Loam (Sand 67%, silt 24%, clay 9%). There were no stones found to 12" depth. The sample proved no sand would be necessary. An outline of basic construction was presented. Mr. Rocco asked how many samples were taken. Ms. Sullivan explained 12 scattered samples were taken around the site. The site would be 25' from the woods. Ms. Sullivan noted it would be important to have signage similar to Huber Woods equine ring. Mr. Hennessy stated the same signage is up at Bucks Mill Park. The only construction responsibility for the Recreation Department would be to create a drainage swale around the arena to divert water runoff. A slide was presented from multiple angles of the site, which had a view of white slat fencing surrounding the polo field. Ms. Sullivan noted the fencing is broken and falling down, the Trail Riders would like to take that fencing from the Polo field area and re-use it for the ring. Mr. Hennessy stated the plan is to have that fencing remain in place. Mr. Rocco asked if Polo was returning. Mr. Hennessy said it may return. Mr. Mancino asked where would the horse trailers park. Ms. Sullivan replied, against the ring. Mr. Valenti asked if there is no fill needed on the ring, will the surface be ok for numerous horses to ride on. He also asked will the weed killer used to kill the grass in the ring be harmful to the horses. Ms. Sullivan replied maybe the weed killer will not be necessary. How would the ring be maintained, it was suggested a Taylor rake on an ATV. Ms. Richards uses this on her ring at her home. Mr. Valenti asked approximately how many horses will be using the ring, fifty? Ms. Richards said no, not that many. If the Trail Riders were hosting an event, would it be used. Yes, it would be used for warming up the horses and the Colts Neck Fair may want to use the ring. Mr. Valenti asked if it would be on a permit basis. Mr. Mancino noted the Township could make money, and it sounds like a great idea. Mr. Valenti asked if permits are required to use the ring, would there be competition between users. Ms. Richards stated many farms have barns but not rings for horses. The ring would be used to exercise horses, with the possibility of bringing in revenue from permit fees. She added Victory Stables in town charges \$35 to use their ring. Mr. Mancino asked who is responsible for insurance. Mr. Hennessy noted the first item is to determine if the Trail Riders are under the Recreation Department Sponsorship which would include insurance. He asked how many Trail Rider members have horses in Colts Neck. Ms. Sullivan was not sure of the number. Mr. Valenti asked how would the use of the ring be monitored, for example, would someone use the ring to teach horseback riding lessons. Mr. Mancino suggested using the space for barrel racing too. Mr. Valenti asked how many dogs participate in Lure Coursing at the Polo Field. How many cars attend that event. Approximately 40-50 cars and 80 dogs. Dogs and horses are not a good mix. Mr. Rocco suggested the dogs take up half the field where the pond is, would that impact horses. Ms. Sullivan asked if all of the Lure Coursing participants are residents of Colts Neck. Mr. Hennessy will provide that information at the next meeting. Mr. Valenti thanked Ms. Sullivan and Richards for their presentation. There are many good ideas, the committee does not want to rush into any decisions. The Township Committee would need to approve the proposed area of Bucks Mill Park for a horse ring. A

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question of the by-laws, sponsorship and insurance need to be answered. A big issue is waste management, as there is no guarantee users will remove the manure. Ms. Richards stated she walks her dog everyday in the park and will pick up the horse manure. Ms. Sullivan noted equestrians have a certain etiquette related to manure removal, and does not see it being a problem. Additional questions: Would the gate be locked, or left open. Would the ring be strictly for horses only. Mr. Hennessy will contact Monmouth County Parks to gather additional information about Monmouth County horse rings. Mr. Hennessy stated the location and concept are good, the question may be the practicality.

**Old Business**

**2015 Budget** – Mr. Hennessy stated this year the budget is very tight. He asked for \$290K in Capital and received \$30K. From the 2014 budget he set aside \$20K for fertilizing the fields this year in June and September, he hopes to be able to lime the fields. Mr. Hennessy also obtained a used tractor, that coupled with a hopper from the Department of Public Works, he'll be able to seed the fields, as he's inherited 9.5 acres that require maintenance.

**Special Events** – Mr. Hennessy reported the Easter Egg Hunt had an increase in children. Using the PA system, he was able to announce the brunch, sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary. This year's crowd was bigger than ever. Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee will take place at Bucks Mill using 8 fields and bringing in \$2,000 in revenue. Mr. Hennessy will contact the committee regarding their assignments for Earth Day.

**Park Projects** – Mr. Hennessy stated the Sports Foundation Girl's softball league is looking to purchase collapsible batting cages. N.J. Elite also has an interest in batting cages. The collapsible softball cages would require a cement base, these would be used at Cedar Drive softball fields.

The Sports Foundation will be installing a portable snack shed at Cedar Drive. The shed will be 8' x 14'. Mr. Hennessy received a call last night from the Sports Foundation to join them in picking out a spot for the shed at Cedar Drive.

**Vandalism** – Mr. Adams noticed car tracks on Bucks Mill fields. If this continues, and the person drives on the fields at Five Point, the irrigation system could be impacted. There is currently \$7K worth of damage to the polo field from someone(s) driving their car and creating donuts on the field.

**Senior Citizen Club** – Ms. Laufer stated 100 members attended lunch today at the Colts Neck Inn. They are planning a trip to the Culinary Institute in NY, a May trip to Washington DC, and George Street Theater in New Brunswick. Many brought their computer/devices to Cedar Drive school for a computer class. The club is involved with Project Linus by knitting/crocheting hats, gloves for children in hospitals. They have an upcoming bridge game at Brandywine on Rt. 34. One of the members turned 101 years young. Golden membership is given to anyone over 88 years young. All attending the Washington DC trip pays 100%, the Township does not pay for the trip. The Club received an increase of \$1,000 this year to their budget, making the new total \$41,000.00.

In closing, the majority of the committee thought the Equine Ring was a good idea. However, there are many outstanding questions. Mr. Hennessy will investigate if in fact the Trail Riders are recognized under the Township Insurance policy.

Mr. Adams will need space for soccer practice soon. Mr. Hennessy will provide permits.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary