

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – May 6, 2015**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: May 6, 2015**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Judy Laufer, Joe Mancino, John Rocco, Phil Maida, Brian McNally, Paul Wild

Excused Absence: Rich Rehm, A.J. Garito, Chris Adams

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 April 1, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Also in attendance was Ronnie representing the Colts Neck Trail Riders Club.

Old Business

Baseball Season Update – Mr. Hennessy distributed field use information per Mr. Valenti's April 1 request. The Sports Foundation has received permits for all fields Mondays - Sundays except # 1 and # 2 Bucks Mill Park. These two fields are controlled by the Recreation Department. The first 3 pages included details of current permits. Also included in the documents were schedules for field use from the Sports Foundation website. Mr. Valenti noted this document was a good start, but for next meeting requests the report be in a format he presented. He'd like to understand the percentage of in town groups vs. out of town groups using sports fields. MR. Hennessy stated in the May issue of the Colts Neck Journal the field fee ordinance is explained. Fields that are open may be permitted to outside groups if there is no impact on the Sports Foundation. Mr. Valenti asked there are no outside groups using Laird Road fields? Mr. Hennessy stated, only individual USABL may come in and book a field through the Sports Foundation. Mr. Valenti thought USABL was not allowed on the Township fields. Mr. Hennessy explained USABL as a league is not allowed to book Township fields but individual teams in the USABL may obtain permit from the Sports Foundation. They also sign an agreement on rules for field use.

Earth Day Success – Mr. Hennessy thanked the committee in helping to complete the clean ups.

New Business

Colts Neck Summer Camps scheduled for 2015 are Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Fencing, Girls Lacrosse and Field Hockey. An art program is also scheduled as well as a percussion band camp. All but fencing are associated with Colts Neck High School. He did note, this year the High School passed a rule, there will be no fee for campers from 8th – 12th grade attending the high school.

Summer Day Camp

Approximately 21 Counselors are returning, with 18 new applicants. Over 20 applicants are under 16 years old, hoping to be hired as a Counselor in Training. There are approximately 4-6 vacancies in both categories. Mr. Baker asked if the camp fee was increased. Mr. Hennessy replied yes, by \$10.00. Mr. Baker asked if that increase covers the cost for the Counselors. Mr. Hennessy replied yes. He reminded the committee with declining base of children in town, the number of counselors hired may decrease.

Upcoming Events

May 2 the PTO held a very successful Color Run 5K at Bucks Mill park with over 350 participants. This weekend the Colts Neck High School ROTC will be hosting a 5K color run at Bucks Mill. Memorial Day weekend is the Pet Fair.

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Memorial Day Parade Assignments and Line of March

Mr. Wild noted Alan Ryan is very excited about providing a breakfast for the Veterans prior to the parade. Mr. Baker asked if Earle was participating this year, as they weren't on the documents. Mr. Hennessy stated no they are not participating. Mr. Valenti asked the committee who will be in attending the parade. All raised said yes, Mr. Mancino will be supporting the Fire Department. Mr. Valente asked for assistance in handing out flags via golf carts. Mr. Baker will assist.

Gravesite Ceremony

Mr. Hennessy read the participants for the ceremony. Noting Col. Sfayer will be handing out tee shirts to all Veterans and he will be the military speaker. Mr. Valenti noted the Quartet is not coming. And no Bud Wheeler this year. Mr. Hennessy stated he will be checking in with the committee on a regular basis in the coming weeks prior to the parade. Mr. Valenti shared an overview of what takes place on parade day, as Mr. Rocco is new to the committee. A question regarding will the mini donkey with the cart be in the parade. The question went to Ms. Sullivan as it is her animal. "Clyde" will be marching with the Lion's Club. She noted the Rumson parade had a beautiful stage coach from Wells Fargo Bank. It would be nice to have that in the parade. Mr. Hennessy stated it is a tough date to get anyone to join in the parade, maybe next year. Mr. Maida will contact Dan Petrillo, Jr. to drive the tractor. Mr. Wild noted we need to replace the speaker system from last years at the gravesite. MR. Hennessy stated he will be using Mr. Garito's system.

Senior Citizen Report

Ms. Laufer did not attend the senior luncheon today. The club is planning two trips, one to Atlantic City and the other to Bucks County Playhouse. Another trip to Washington, DC is scheduled the end of May. There is discussion for a Caribbean Cruise, this trip will be paid 100% by the Club members themselves.

Remarks from the Public

Mr. Valenti asked if Ms. Sullivan would like to address the committee. She thanked the committee for listening to their proposal for a horse ring adjacent to the upper fields at Bucks Mill Park. She indicated that she attended the Township Meeting and there was no mention of the proposed horse ring. Mr. Hennessy stated before Mr. Bowden retired, he explained to him that the Township has never acknowledged the Trail Riders as an officially sponsored and/ or insured entity. Mr. Hennessy noted, he had been a Township liaison from the Township Committee to the Trail Riders for many years, to which Ms. Sullivan asked if having a Township liaison for over ten years was all a mistake by the Township.

Mr. Valenti stated it was the right decision to come to this committee with their proposal. He also stated at the April meeting there were challenges to the proposal. He asked all to remember the request is to build something on Township property and would need approval from the Township Committee. Ms. Sullivan asked, what is the correct path to pursue at this point? Mr. Valenti assured her that she had taken the correct step by coming before the Recreation Committee. It was suggested the club continue to promote the idea to the Township Committee. Mr. Valenti repeated, as he had in previous meetings, that the Recreation Committee recognizes that the preservation of horses is very positive and important attribute to the Township. There are challenges with the project that need to get worked out. Mr. Rocco asked what are the challenges. Mr. Valenti, reiterated that the land is Township property and authorization is required, maintenance issues, insurance issues, and having dogs in close proximity on weekends are ongoing issues. Mr. Valenti continued by explaining what it entails for the Trail Riders to become sponsored by the Township, and the definition of the legal relationship. He stated there should be a relationship in the future; we don't know what that relationship is today.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Wild ask all to provide their own critique of the Memorial Day Parade.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary