

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – September 7, 2016**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: September 7, 2016**

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

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

Township Liaison Present: Mr. Eastman

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from June 1, 2016.
(the following corrections were made: "approval of June 1, 2016 meeting minutes" and "Willard Thompson")

Old Business

Summer in Review – Mr. Adams asked Mr. Hennessy to delay the discussion and move to New Business. Mr. Hennessy agreed.

New Business

Stewards of the Park – Ms. Sullivan noted the new grills at Bucks Mill look great, so does the football field. The trails are ok as well. Mr. Adams asked how are the trees cut on the trails. Mr. Hennessy explained, a pay loader is used to knock a tree down. Ms. Sullivan stated the softball fields seem like they are not used, as the infields are not maintained. Mr. Hennessy indicated the softball season has passed. There is grass growing between the cracks of the basketball courts at Cedar Dr. The fence around the polo field is in bad shape. The two benches are not in good condition; one is missing a quarter of the support. There are seats with bolts sticking out. As mentioned in previous meetings, the metal posts near the football field where she rides her horse do not have caps. Ms. Sullivan does not want anyone riding horses to fall onto the sharp tops of the posts. A car must have driven into one, as the one pole is bent. The area needs work. Mr. Hennessy stated there is an Eagle Scout project scheduled for this fall. And he will be obtaining bids for a new basketball court as he has \$14-16K in a Recreation and Parks capital account. Mr. Hennessy noted the capital money does not effect "emergency spending". Mr. Hennessy explained fencing and posts will be discussed with the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Hennessy noted Quiet Winter Farm wanted to donate something benefiting horsemen, but their Bucks Mill event did not generate the expected monies. Ms. Sullivan suggested asking the Trail Riders to provide safety caps on the two posts. Mr. Hennessy stated it was a great idea, go for it. Ms. Sullivan will follow up with the Colts Neck Trail Riders. Overall park planning has been stalled, and most projects cannot be done quickly. The Township needs both a long range plan and short range plan for parks, per Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams stated he and members of the Sports Foundation have been maintaining the soccer fields at Five Point Park. He has also voiced his concerns to the Township Committee, noting they are relying on volunteers to maintain Township fields. He understands there are many activities in town for DPW to complete with a small staff. However, when the fields are mowed there are weeds 4' high left behind, trash in bins etc. We should not avoid these things; the residents should expect more. Mr. Eastman will follow up with the Township Committee related to field maintenance and report back to this committee. Ms. Laufer asked who is doing all of the landscaping maintenance at Town Hall. Mr. Adams replied Monmouth County, with a cost.

Mr. Hennessy noted as of September 1, Mr. Antonides, CFO, sent a memo advising all Department Heads, effective immediately, there will be no budgeted purchases for the remainder of the year, only emergency purchases, if they are approved by he or Ms. Capristo.

Park Improvements

Five Point Park # 1 – Mr. Hennessy had placed caution tape on the entrances to baseball field # 1, for safety reasons. Since the tape was placed, twice in 5 days the tape has been removed and someone has used the field. They left a 4" crescent mound of raking materials behind home plate and there is no pitcher's mound. He received an estimate for repairing the mound and batter's box of \$3,200. Tomorrow he will place padlocks on the entrances.

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Laird Road # 2 – Mr. Garito and Mr. Mariner will refurbish the field on their own. Mr. Hennessy will provide approximately two truck loads of soil. It is a big project, but they are committed to completing it.

Application of fall fertilizer is scheduled for the end of September and end of October, Mr. Hennessy has followed this process and has seen remarkable results of grass growing on the fields. He received a quote of \$64/acre to aerate, seed, and fertilize. He may not consider the aeration to keep the cost down. Mr. Adams stated it seems an “emergency purchase order” is warranted to continue keeping the fields maintained. Mr. Hennessy applies a slow release fertilizer in the fall that stretches to spring. Fall is a critical time for field fertilization. Mr. Rehm agreed with Mr. Hennessy’s approach.

Boy Scout Eagle and Girl Scout Gold Award (attachment) – Many Eagle Scout projects are nearing completion. Given the decrease in manpower with DPW, these projects really enhance the township. Mr. Adams asked if the Township purchased the grills for the Eagle Scout project at Bucks Mill. Mr. Hennessy replied, no, it is part of the Scout’s responsibility to purchase the hardware. It is a team effort between the scout, parents and Recreation to complete these great projects.

Monmouth County Matching Grant – Core Center Pathways – The township has applied for a matching grant; the best approach chosen, is to pave the fitness trail around the Core Center. The walkway would be black top, 8’ wide, the cost \$88K. 90% would be toward the project and 10% toward engineering.

Community Pass Update – The system was implemented for our summer day camp. Parents were able to register and pay for day camp and trips. The process went very well. We plan to use Community Pass this Fall for our fitness programs. Mr. Hennessey entertained the idea of on line payments for three years. It is a credit to Ms. Capristo, who was able to obtain the Township Committee’s approval to purchase a Community Pass program. Future possibilities may include paying on line for dog licenses etc.

An overview of upcoming events below was led by Mr. Hennessy.

1. Saturday, September 10 - Opening of Colts Neck Recreation Soccer
2. Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 – 3rd Annual Pet Fair
3. Friday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 – Women’s Club Rummage Sale
4. Tuesday, September 20 - Colts Neck Business Association Pig Roast
5. Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24 – Rockfest
6. Tuesday, September 27 – Freehold Regional School District’s Cross Country Meet
7. Saturday, October 22 – 3rd Annual March on Epilepsy 5K Run
8. Thursday, October 27 – Colts Neck Community Band Concert
9. Friday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day Ceremony – Library
10. Thursday, November 17 – Whispering Pine Art Contest Awards

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated the club met today with 85 in attendance at the Colts Neck Inn. A trip to Vermont is planned for September 26 – 29. Flu shots (with Medicare coverage for Seniors) will be distributed by the Township at the October meeting. A future trip will take place to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse and Sights and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. There are three candidates for club President. Ms. Laufer will become Vice President. Ms. Laufer stated it is a good mix of people in the club, the requirement is you must be 55 years old to join.

Misc.

Mr. Eastman asked Mr. Hennessey to provide a prioritized list of Recreation and Park projects based on discussion tonight. He will have a better understanding when he communicates with the Township Committee regarding these projects and the budget. Mr. Hennessy stated he will “test the waters” but if he needs assistance he will contact Mr. Eastman.

With no other issues to discuss, Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Our next meeting will be held October 5 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary