

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – April 6, 2011**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Leonor Lesta, Jim Valenti, Rich Rehm, Candice Burke, Brian McNally,
Ed Piotrowski

Excused Absence: Joe Mancino, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

Also in attendance: Mr. Orgo

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 2, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Laird Road Improvements - Mr. Hennessy shared an aerial view of Laird Road Park for discussion of the parks improvements. Tennis Courts had been resurfaced and further investigation found leaving nets in place during winter months put strain on the metal posts which caused cracks on the courts. The nets are now removed in the Fall and returned in the Spring to prevent further damage. Field # 1 has been improved by the Sports Foundation with one of the objectives being to gain attention to generate more funds to additional sports fields in town. Laser technology is being used to fine tune the pitching mound and home plate. Five warning path of stone has been installed near the fencing, the dug outs have new gravel and irrigation is in place on the infield and outfield, installed by East Coast Irrigation. Mr. Valenti asked is the irrigation up and running. Mr. Hennessy replied it is and added, the 9/11 Memorial now has irrigation too. This was a suggestion by Mr. Valenti. Mr. Hennessy also noted the old snack shed has been taken down in preparation for the new snack shed.

Presentation by Mickey Stoble, Paw Pals

Mr. Stoble thanked the committee and all residents of Colts Neck to allow his organization to utilize Bucks Mill Park for the past several years. His organization primarily runs dog luring events at the park. He has partnered with Mr. Hennessy in an agreement which provides 40% of proceeds from his practice events are shared with Recreation and Parks. He is using the agreement with Colts Neck as a business model with long range plans to include events that will be profitable for both Paw Pals and Colts Neck Township. He highlighted the most recent Pet Fair held last year at Bucks Mill Park. While he met the expectations of Mr. Hennessy and vendors who participated, he acknowledged there were areas for improvement for the next Pet Fair. Mr. Piotrowski asked how does Mr. Stoble handle parking at the facility. Mr. Stoble explained he and another member of his organization were mentored by Mr. Hennessy and ran the parking for last years event. Discussion continued related to types of dog training that may be held in Colts Neck. He encouraged the committee to stop by Bucks Mill on Friday evening to view that type of practice they run, including cleaning up the park post practice. He thanked the committee for their time and explained he was going to the Library next to give a presentation to the Lion's Club on possible joint ventures.

Laird Road Improvements (cont.)

Mr. Hennessy mentioned Ms. Sheehy Sports Foundation Baseball Commissioner will be providing new flags at the 9/11 Memorial. With the construction of the new snack shed, Mr. Hennessy stated one of the objectives is to generate tournaments at Laird Road and increase Sports Foundation revenue from proceeds of the snack shed. Mr. Engle noted the snack shed improvements are being paid from the

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Sports Foundation and not Township monies. The snack shed monies have been obtained from the advertising signage which is displayed on the outfield fence at Laird Road # 1. Mr. Engel stated the architectural review committee approved the signage, and the Township committee approved only those signs meeting code. Mr. Hennessy added a possible grant maybe obtained to include a pavilion at Laird Road for outdoor dining.

Field # 2 also has infield irrigation paid for by an anonymous donor, Mr. Hennessy stated. The pitcher's mound and home plate will be raised. Bricks will be used on the pitcher's mound to prevent erosion of the pitcher's mound. Improvement to prevent pooling at the batter's box has also been completed. Capital monies for expansion of the parking lot have been secured. Mr. McNally asked if the parking lot will eliminate the playground at Laird Road. Mr. Hennessy pointed to the aerial view said no, the playground will remain. Ms. Burke asked how many additional parking spaces will there be. Mr. Hennessy stated between 40 – 45 parking spaces. In addition he would like to install a gate and fencing at field # 3 that would prohibit cars from driving down to field # 4. The additional parking project was approved by the Township Committee as they acknowledged the overflow parking at Laird Road as a safety issue. Also at field # 1 the dug outs will be changed for children to exit them away from traffic.

Field # 4 Mr. Hennessy stated fencing was replaced by a plywood wall similar to the one found at Fenway Park in Boston. The wall was constructed with plywood with the centerfield height being 8' and dropping to 4' in left and right fields. Mr. Barbagallo met with Mr. Hennessy regarding drainage issues at Laird Road fields # 3 and #4. With the fencing installed water will be prevented from flowing onto field # 4.

Bucks Mill # 2 field is in poor condition and Mr. Hennessy stated someone advised to create a skin diamond rather than trying to maintain grass. Mr. Valenti commented trying to grow grass without irrigation won't work, the goal should be irrigation.

Special Events

Mr. Hennessy announced the Spring Program Guide has been mailed to all residents. The Easter Egg Hunt, Brunch with the Easter Bunny and Children's Easter Craft Workshop will all take place on Saturday April 16. He reviewed the Stewards of the Park assignments with associated organizations for Earth Day. Mr. Hennessy will provide the blue garbage bags along with a sign up sheet to be used by each group. The sign up sheets must be returned to Mr. Hennessy in order for Clean Communities to apply for additional state funding. May 1 is the Colts Neck Classic Bike Race. This years race will begin at Thompson Park. Mr. Hennessy suggested they rename the event to the "Tour of Colts Neck Classic" Ms. Burke commented it's a very exciting event to watch. Mr. Hennessy also discussed additional police on duty for the event with Chief Sauter. The Fire Police will be assisting with signage advising automobile drivers to slow prior to upcoming curves. He is also pursuing the possibility of the Fire Police assisting with traffic along Rt. 537 with the Arts and Crafts Fair in October. The township will not be having a July 4th celebration, however the Colts Neck Fair will be held July 1 – 3 with a donated firework display scheduled for Friday, July 1. Mr. Engel attended the Fair Committee meeting and shared the enthusiasm and motivation of the committee to have a successful fair. It will have different attractions, and all are encouraged to attend. Men's Softball League is looking for additional teams, Mr. Hennessy increased the registration fee from \$725 to \$925 per team to offset program costs. The Colts Neck Community Band concert is scheduled on Thursday, May 26 at the High School. Ms. Burke asked what they were charging for the concert. Mr. Hennessy said there is no charge for the concert. He explained the band has revised the locations to collect donations, this being very successful and therefore there is no need to charge admission.

Park Projects

Mr. Hennessy provided an update on field permits stating organizations are submitting their Insurance for field permits in addition to money to utilize the fields. He estimates by the end of the year, Recreation and Parks will collect approximately 15K of additional revenue from newly implemented rental fees. Ms. Burke asked if rental fees include renting the Community Center too. Mr. Hennessy stated yes it will cost \$600 with a pre-set up fee up to \$250.00 (prior day) plus a non-refundable maintenance fee of \$75. Spring field

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preparation included all baseball and soccer fields have been fertilized, limed and aerated. Hopefully they will be seeded this Spring or it may be reserved for Fall. For the first time at Five Point Park an application has been done to prevent crab grass, Mr. Hennessy stated. Plans are in motion for the water reel shed at Five Point Park, which is an Eagle Scout project, with materials donated from the Sports Foundation. The Library Garden will be maintained by the students with Colts Neck High School STEP program. Ms. Burke was contacted by Mr. Arnold Kleeberg and was told local Master Gardners will be maintaining the garden. Ms. Burke asked Mr. Hennessy if both groups will be working together. Discussion continued related to the Blind Garden. Mr. Engel was told by Mr. Lelesi once his son completed the garden as his Eagle Scout Project, it would be maintained. The Blind Garden has not been maintained.

Other

Summer Day Camp will run from June 27 to August 5. On-line payments for camp trips and other programs has an increased interest, Mr. Hennessy stated. He commented Mr. Antonides, CFO will be providing information to him in the coming weeks. Ms. Burke asked will the costs for on line payments be built into the fee for residents. Mr. Hennessy replied it will be a user charge. He explained a number of residents have asked to extend the day camp an additional two weeks, going from a 6 week camp to an 8 week camp. Increasing the camp would bring in additional revenue. The committee stated it sounds like a good idea. Mr. Hennessy said given the budget has been finalized for 2011 he would not have additional funding this year for Counselor salaries for an additional two weeks.

Mr. Orgo suggested the Counselors be asked if they want to work another two weeks. At Laird Road he suggested the fill at Laird Road be used for the parking area.

Mr. Hennessy was approached by a resident suggesting a running road race be added to Memorial Day. The Committee felt the parade should be the only activity.

The Committee continued with a review of the Memorial Day Line of March. The Committee agreed to wear khaki pants with last year's green shirts. Ms. Lesta asked to have extra ribbons this year for the Bicycle Contest. Mr. Hennessy will order additional ribbons.

Mr. Valenti asked if golf carts driven by committee members would be available to also have a Veteran from each war riding a cart, similar to past parades. All agreed this should be done again with signage reflecting the appropriate war.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary