

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – December 1, 2010**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Joe Mancino, Brian McNally, Jim Valenti, Paul Wild, Rich Rehm, Candice, Burke, Leonor Lesta, Ed Piotrowski

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Absent: Mike Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Valenti at 7:10 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from November 3, 2010.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Whispering Pines Art Contest – Mr. Hennessy asked Mr. Maida to comment on the Winner Ceremony. Mr. Maida stated there were not many entries this year, however, all participants were very enthusiastic. Two of the Adult entries were also participants in 2009 and one entry was submitted in the Youth division. Mr. Hennessy will be working closely with the schools in 2011 to gain more participating for the Youth Division. Mr. Baker asked if anyone asks to sell the artwork. Yes, some entrants include a price. Mr. Maida commented one entrant asked the location of Whispering Pines Farm (home of the Petrillos'), and went over to that location after the ceremony. Perhaps we'll see a painting in our contest in 2011 of the Farm.

Ashley Lauren Foundation Apple and Pumpkin Festival - Mr. Hennessy said the turnout of this event was good. Mr. Maida commented they probably parked approximately 200 cars for the event. It was difficult to tell, because cars were coming and going throughout the day.

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Over twenty Veteran's participated in the Ceremony held at Cedar Drive School. Mr. Hennessy added, new this year was the 7th grade joining the 8th grade in the audience. The Cedar Drive School choir also participated and remained standing for the entire event. Mr. Hennessy commented Mr. Rigby does a great job as Principal. Ms. Burke asked if Recreation was involved in the Veteran's Ceremony on November 12 held at Conover Road Primary school. Mr. Hennessy was not aware of the ceremony. He did place the Veteran's Day wreath at Memorial Park, had he known of Primary School's ceremony he would have shared the wreath with them.

Broadway Trip - Mr. Hennessy asked Ms. Lesta to speak of the trip as she acted as Coordinator. She began with the bus driver being an hour late, but said the day turned out great. The Driver dropped some folks off at the door of their Restaurant in Manhattan. He arrived promptly at the Theater for the return trip.

Recreation Committee Form and Function - Mr. Fitzgerald was unable to attend the meeting but did speak to Mr. Valenti, in addition Mr. Engel and Mr. Valenti had a lengthy conversation regarding the role of the Facilities Reimbursement Committee. Overall maintenance and development of parks and facilities in the Township is ultimately the "duty" of the Recreation

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Committee. Mr. Engel is aware of this Committee's role and will ensure his ad hoc committee is also aware. Mr. Valenti stressed the importance of the committee to share the message that the roles and responsibilities of this committee are to monitor the development/use for facilities, parks and programs related to Recreation.

Colts Neck Facilities Refurbishment – Mr. Valenti mentioned even though Mr. Hennessy and Mr. McNally are attending these ad hoc committee meetings; the information/ideas still need to come before this committee. It is also important to look at the "big picture" of the Township in decision making for park projects. Mr. Hennessy distributed an email sent by Sports Foundation, Baseball Commissioner, Laura Sheehy. Discussion followed on her ambitious list of proposed improvements to Laird Road baseball fields. Ms. Burke asked if there was a documented Mission Statement for Mr. Engel's committee. Mr. Hennessy attended the November meeting of the Facilities Refurbishment committee and indicated they are looking to "start over" by "re-assessing" the needs for fields etc. within the Township. He also had a conversation with Ms. Sheehy in terms of the Recreation Committee's interest in field improvements. The monies collected for the artificial turf were not enough to install the turf; however the collected monies may be applied to other improvements for Laird Road baseball fields. The Sports Foundation would like to make the good fields at Laird Road the best fields, therefore a "showplace" for what can be accomplished with private funding. Items considered at Laird Road are infield and outfield irrigation systems. The Sports Foundation would like to begin improvements this year according to Ms. Sheehy's email. Mr. McNally asked if the Sports Foundation members who donated toward the artificial turf will have an option to have their money returned, rather than applied to other improvements to Laird Road. Ms. Burke commented discussions of the Sports Foundation monies need to be done by them not at this Committee. Mr. Valenti asked if Ms. Sheehy was part of the Refurbishment Committee, perhaps there is a disconnect related to her email of improvements. Mr. Hennessy said no, Ms. Sheehy is a part of the Refurbishment Committee. Discussion continued of potential issues surrounding field improvements. Mr. Valenti reminded the Committee how successful the Sports Foundation has been as a partner with the Township and that the Recreation Committee supports and welcomes all ideas for field improvement etc., at the same time these ideas need to follow the processes in place not only within the Township Committee but also this Committee. Mr. Hennessy will send a note of the above few sentences to Ms. Sheehy. Ms. Lesta asked if a Township Engineer is involved in the planning of these types of field improvements. Mr. Valenti stated an engineer would be warranted, based on the scope of the project. Mr. Maida commented that a project foreman would be a point person for such a project.

New Business

Holiday Celebrations - Mr. Hennessy reviewed the upcoming Adult and Children's Craft Workshops, December 7 and December 11 respectively. The Holiday Tree Lighting is Sunday. This year's event will feature a tuba quartet from the Colts Neck Community Band. Mr. Baker will be kicking off the festivities. Ms. Lesta asked for help with the hot chocolate distribution, Mr. Rehm, and possibly Mr. Mancino will be in attendance. She also asked for 3-5 boy scouts to assist. Mr. Hennessy will contact Boy Scout Troop 290 leader, Mr. Lelesi for assistance. Santa mailboxes have been set up at Township Hall and the Post Office for children to submit letters to Santa Claus.

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life - This event is scheduled for June 11 – 12, 2011 at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Hennessy shared a schematic from the Cancer Society outlining the set up for Bucks Mill. They will not be using the Polo Field but soccer field # 1 for the actual relay. Mr. Valenti asked if a permit has been granted for the event, Mr. Hennessy replied yes. Being set in

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June prime sports activities, Mr. Hennessey has already alerted Sports Foundation soccer that field # 1 will not be available that weekend. He noted the soccer field for this event is one of the least used fields. Mr. Piotrowski commented on potential noise factor for residents close to Bucks Mill Park; this event normally includes live music. Mr. Hennessey stated the American Cancer Society will be going door to door to advise residents of their event. Mr. Valenti commented the relay will likely impact the condition of the field. Mr. Hennessey has commented Martha Lenhardt has volunteered to serve as parking coordinator. He added Bucks Mill Park is developing into an event location, naming the Apple Festival, Paw Pals, Arts and Craft Fairs, and there is the possibility of additional events.

Colts Neck Fair/Polo – Mr. Hennessey made an announcement to the Committee that in 2011, both Colts Neck Fair and Polo will occur on the same day. This is the Fair Committee request being that Polo match will hopefully attract spectators for the Fair. Mr. Maida added next year the Fair Committee will try anything and everything to attract people. By discontinuing the contract with the previous ride vendor, it allows for the Fair dates to be more flexible. Mr. McNally asked will there be any rides. Mr. Maida said yes, a different type of rides with a new vendor. He urged the Committee to spread the word volunteers are needed to help if anyone has ideas and/or time to assist, it would be appreciated.

2011 Recreation and Park Budgets – Mr. Hennessey is working on both budgets.

Senior Citizen Club - Ms. Laufer stated an upcoming trip to Lancaster, PA is scheduled for December, along with their Christmas Luncheon being held at Trump International Golf Club. Membership is 270 members

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary