

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES; April 3, 2013**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Judy Laufer, Joe Mancino, Candice Burke, Brian McNally

Absent: Paul Wild, Rich Rehm, Ed Piotrowski, A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Present: Mike Fitzgerald

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

The Committee approved the minutes of February 6, 2013

Old Business

2013 Budgets, Regular, Capital, Comparison - Mr. Hennessy indicated that the budgets were introduced to the Township Committee in March. April 24 the budget will be presented for approval. He stated he would provide details of the budget should anyone want to view that information. He also shared a graph of Recreation revenue vs. operating dollars from 2008 to 2012 sourced from the Township Chief Financial Officer, John Antonides. This graph reflected revenue growth and operating costs decreasing over the past four years.

Special Events – Mr. Hennessy stated the program guide was mailed yesterday and the cover reflects two new programs. On March 16, the Children's Arts and Crafts workshop was held. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 23, and had a great turnout with the traditional brunch provided by the Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary. Earth Day Clean Up assignments will be sent to the committee tomorrow. Mr. Hennessy noted Mr. Valenti's assignment, Big Brook Preserve, does have two trees down and he will provide assistance removing them. The Colts Neck High School's STEP program will be helping clean up Laird Road. This will be Doug Mitchell's last year organizing the Colts Neck Classic Bicycle Race on May 5. Another group will be taking over. Mr. Maida asked why. Mr. Hennessy explained the previous group felt it was time to turn it over to a new group. Colts Neck Community Band will be performing two concerts, May 23 at Colts Neck High School and June 6 at Thompson Park, which will be a very special POPs concert. Ms. Burke noted June 6 is also an event at the High School with the student bands from Cedar Drive and Conover Road schools playing together. It would have been nice if the Community Band could have joined the students. A reminder the Annual Fishing Derby will be early this year, June 8. Mr. Hennessy hopes to increase participation, as the weather will be cooler and school will be in session. Ms. Burke asked if the Township would be stocking the ponds at Bucks Mill with trout. Mr. Hennessy stated no, it is too warm for the trout to survive in those ponds. Summer Day Camp - Mr. McNally asked if there is still a need for Camp Counselors. Mr. Hennessy stated 70% of the camp staff is returning. There is a need for at least twelve Counselors. Ms. Burke asked if registration will be on line. Mr. Hennessy stated no. The list of trips for each camp will be on the website. Mr. Baker asked what is the length of the camp this year, and are the fees going down. Mr. Hennessy explained the fees are being decreased by \$10 as the camp is six weeks this year. Ms. Burke asked if the camp would be extended to a full day. Mr. Hennessy replied, it's not close to becoming a full day, with our limited facilities. Dog Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and practice will continue, we have 14 CATS kennel clubs and looking to expand to dog agility. Ms. Burke asked if Relay for Life is returning. Mr. Hennessy stated no, they decided to return to Freehold Race Track. The Trail Riders have as scheduled event at Bucks Mill on April 14.

Liaison Report – Mayor Fitzgerald thanked the committee for the significant amount of time spent on the bond issue. The Township has decided obtaining a bond at this time did not make sense. Should the Sports Foundation not pay their share the taxpayers would be paying for the balance of the bond. The

thought process is to continue to improve the fields within the Recreation and Parks budget and continue to partner with the Sports Foundation. Mr. Valenti noted more money is needed for the fields. Mayor Fitzgerald explained the Township is trying and it is a constant struggle. Mr. Maida suggested keeping Recreation's revenue out of the general fund and use it for field improvements.

Spring Field Preparation – Mr. Hennessy reported infield mix will be delivered today to Cedar Drive with Boags Landscaping performing the work. Capital Projects - Cedar Drive fields had caused many "rain outs" last year, the improvements include infield mix, a Pro Choice layer on top and removing the lip for better drainage. All of this will be completed by opening day. The first Cedar Drive girl's softball game was played at the high school while the work was being completed. Laird Road # 3 improvements are being paid for in partnership with the Sports Foundation. The next priority is to evaluate the fields and receive bids for the work. Mr. Hennessy explained he did carry over from 2012 \$20K in Capital and the Township is committed to \$20K this year. Improvements at Laird Road will cost \$12-\$15K. Mr. McNally commented that the Sports Foundation and Township has always seemed to have a great partnership. Mr. Hennessy noted Ken Olson, DPW Foreman took a personal interest in preparing of the fields and really did an outstanding job. Bucks Mill Park did receive some FEMA money for damage due to Hurricane Sandy. The Trail Riders will be clearing the trails at Bucks Mill and Cedar Drive Park, Mr. Hennessy stated.

Field Permit Update – There is an increased interest in Township fields, Mr. Hennessy stated. He has rented out what was the Polo field to a soccer group and lacrosse group. The Mavericks Lacrosse will hold a Lacrosse Tournament at Bucks Mill and we have three soccer camps using Bucks Mill. It is a top revenue producer. Ms. Burke asked where will American Youth Football be playing. Mr. Hennessy stated they do have a few options.

Mr. Maida commented we usually review the Line of March at this meeting. Mr. Hennessy stated he will have the updated Line of March out before the May meeting. The Colts Neck Fair will include the Bayshore Companion Dog Club demos in obedience and agility. Ms. Burke asked if the fair will have rides. Mr. Maida stated mostly kiddie rides. There will be fireworks booth nights. Mr. Hennessy noted they are looking for 4-H clubs possibly additional animals too.

Senior News – Ms. Laufer stated a trip to the Paper Mill Playhouse is scheduled for April and a 4-day/3 night trip to Boston in May.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 7 pm.