

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – November 3, 2010**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Joe Mancino, Brian McNally, Jim Valenti, Paul Wild, Rich Rehm, A.J. Garito

Excused Absence: Candice Burke, Leonor Lesta, Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Present: Mike Fitzgerald

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 October 6, 2010

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

MCISCCO Championship Track Meet – Mr. Hennessy reported 400 cars and 26 buses were parked for this cross country (grades 6-8) event that brought in \$500 of revenue. He shared with the committee two email messages thanking the Recreation and Parks Department for the well organized event.

Colts Neck Pet Fair held on Saturday, October 16 had approximately 250 spectators, Mr. Hennessy stated. This event also brought in \$500 of revenue. The event, sponsored by Paw Pals, is interested in continuing with this event at Bucks Mill Park. Meridian Health is discussing a similar event as a fund raiser at Bucks Mill Park next year.

Colts Neck Community Band had their Fall concert on October 28 with over 400 in attendance. Mr. Hennessy explained that due to budget issues the Township cannot no longer provide monetary funding. Their donation collection efforts produced a four fold increase in contributions. Ms. Laufer suggested the group become a 501C; Mr. Hennessy replied the Community Band is working toward that end.

Pop Warner season is completed; Mr. Hennessy is considering resting that field (upper filed at Cedar Drive) and moving the Lacrosse group to another location.

Fossil Event Paleontologist Wayne Callahan gave a presentation to 70-80 attendees. Approximately 150 fourth grade exhibits were displayed.

New Business

Whispering Pines Art Contest Mr. Hennessy discussed this year he's reached out to seven new organizations to advertise the contest. Unfortunately we gained only one new participant. The paintings will be judged next week and they will be on display at the Library until November 30.

Ashley Lauren Apple and Pumpkin Festival Mr. Hennessy noted while not being directly involved, he is consulting. This is the 2nd year for this event at Bucks Mill Park. The Department receives calls and emails daily in preparation of this event. Mr. Maida asked how many cars they are expecting. Mr. Hennessy said probably 250 – 300. Mr. Maida asked if he could set up for parking Friday afternoon. Mr. Hennessy said yes, as there are no activities at Bucks Mill Park. He also mentioned the Civil War encampment will be spending the night at the Park. Mr. Maida asked where they would be sleeping. Mr. Hennessy replied in tents towards the back of the Community Center, and Mr. Zander – Fire Marshall is aware of the overnight camp out.

Veteran's Day - Principal Rigby will be including both 7th and 8th grade classes for this year/s ceremony. Past years only included the 8th grade class. Mr. Hennessy stated he's working on an improved program agenda. As In the past, the ceremony will be held on November 11 at 11 am and all are welcome to attend. A light lunch will be provided to the Veterans by the Woman's Club.

Broadway Trip November 17 – Mr. Hennessy said there are tickets remaining for the trip to see Patti LuPone in "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" on Broadway Mr. Baker noted his wife saw the play and said it was very good.

Colts Neck Facilities Refurbishment Group - Jarrett Engel, Township Committeeman, is leading this group which represents the Sports Foundation, Pop Warner, Recreation (Mr. Hennessy and Mr. McNally) and anyone else

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interested in the maintenance of sport fields in town. A question was asked as to who attends the meetings. Ms. Sheehy (CNSF), Mr. Schatzle (Township Committee), Mr. Mackow (Township Committee), Mr. Rivell (Travel Soccer), Mr. Dell'Anno (CNSF President), and Mr. Federico (Landscape Gardner). The group meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Their current focus is to refurbish Laird Road # 1 and # 2. Mr. McNally asked to clarify "refurbish" of fields. Discussion continued on field soil and conditions. Mr. Hennessy explained the process is bringing up the infields to the level of the overall field by providing five loads of infield mix. Mr. Baker asked if we have a hard rain, won't the infield spread run off. Mr. Hennessy said yes to a limited extent, depending as to what degree the fields are groomed. Mr. Fitzgerald noted the fields will be 'spruced up" not so much as refurbished. He advised in discussions related to the fields everyone should step back, view a "clean slate" map without fields etc and work on what makes the most sense for the Township (i.e. entrances/exits at Laird Road). Mr. Hennessy stated the facilities group is concentrating on refurbishing Laird Road into a "show place" and the benchmark for other fields in the Township.

New Class offerings for Winter – Mr. Hennessy shared the following as new class offerings in January: cooking classes at the Library, dog agility and obedience training, hoops, mother/daughter Zumba and Jazz dance.

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested the group using the library to create greeting cards may be better suited to be part of Recreation's programs. Mr. Hennessy said that may be a good match. He also added the Yoga Instructor has a studio in Red Bank, Piper Williams, our jazz dance Instructor has a studio in Jackson and these Instructors have the potential to bring their clients into our programs.

Mr. Hennessy mentioned the Scout Master stopped by to extend his appreciation of being able to have Obre Preserve for their recent overnight camp out. Mr. Zander had helped with the fire ring; the scouts returned the stones into the woods as to not give the impressions that others could build fires. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he had found some old bottles on the Preserve; perhaps the boy scouts would inventory these historic glass bottles.

Recreation and Parks Committee Formation and Function - Mr. Hennessy turned this portion of the meeting to Chairman Valenti. Mr. Maida was concerned that the Director had mis-stated the power and duties of the Committee at the last meeting. Specifically, Mr. Maida wanted to confirm that the Committee has a vote on Recreation matters. Mr. Valenti agreed that the Committee has a vote and further stated that the Committee members have opportunities to review major decisions at the Recreation committee meetings but the day-to-day decisions are made by the Director. A long discussion followed with various Committee members expressing concerns about the communication of major decision and the Committee's involvement and approval of those decisions. Further discussion concerned the powers and duties of the Recreation Committee with respect to the newly formed refurbishment committee. It was the general consensus of the Committee that the Recreation Committee and Director are responsible for the parks and park maintenance and improvement. Any proposals/recommendations for significant Park improvements should be presented to the Committee for approval. Mr. Fitzgerald offered to discuss the Recreation Committee power and duties with the Township Committee. Further discussion on these topics will take place at the next Committee meeting.

Senior Citizen Club - Ms. Laufer stated that Mr. Walsh and Mr. Yodakis have both been nominated as President and Vice President respectively. Their Christmas party will be held at Trump National Golf Course. Currently they have 274 members. Ms. Laufer noted over the past 2 years 10% of the club members have passed away.

She stressed to the committee that the Senior Citizens in town are the best resources. With these day time robberies in Town, if a neighborhood watch group is organized this is the group that will be active as they are home during the daytime. The Senior Citizens always support Township events and play a vital part of the Community. They also have an 83 year old Veteran leading the Pledge of Allegiance this Saturday for the Ashley Lauren Foundation fund raiser at Bucks Mill Park.

Mr. Rehm commented the Senior Citizen's group did a great job cleaning up the Freer Nature Preserve. Ms. Laufer invited all to attend one of their meetings at the Primary School the 1st Wednesday of the month to see what the group is all about.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary

12/2/10