

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – December 4, 2013**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: December 4, 2013**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Brian McNally, Judy Laufer, Paul Wild, Phil Maida

Absent: Candice Burke, A.J. Garito and Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Present: Mayor Michael 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 November 6, 2013.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Liaison Report – Mayor Fitzgerald advised residents should have received their energy aggregation notice, and residents should save a minimum of 10% in monthly electricity costs. If the energy aggregate rates increase beyond those of JCP&L than the Township will return to JCP&L.

He reminded the committee there are legitimate concerns related to the pavilion project at Laird Road. This issue is ongoing for the Township Committee. Mr. Hennessy stated he checked the lighting of the snack shed, resident Larry Reynolds stated was shining in his home from Laird Road Park. He found no lighting on the top of the existing snack shed but recessed lighting on the overhang. Mayor Fitzgerald asked Thom check to see if Mr. Reynolds home was built after the fields were developed and confirm either way to him.

Ms. Laufer asked if anything was new with the Wildlife Committee. Mayor Fitzgerald continues to get more and more complaints about deer on the roadways. Ms. Laufer, noted the problem now is the turkey vultures eating dead deer on the roads, especially Rt. 34. The Mayor explained the Township pays a service to pick up dead deer on Township roads not state roads. Mr. Maida asked why the Township doesn't hire the service to pick up deer from Rt. 34 too. The Mayor will check on the cost to include Rt. 34.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked the committee for a great Tree Lighting event; the efforts of this committee are very much appreciated. Mr. Hennessy noted it was a team effort. Mayor Fitzgerald stated the only feedback was perhaps to have Santa in the Court House which holds more people. Some were annoyed waiting on the steps up to the door at Town Hall. Mr. Maida noted the room in Town Hall was a great photo opportunity this year it looked very festive! Ms. Laufer thanked the committee for a very nice Veteran's Day Ceremony. Mayor Fitzgerald thanked her for noting that and agreed with her sentiments. Mr. Valenti thanked the Mayor for his efforts with the committee and hopes he will continue to be the Township liaison in 2014. Mayor Fitzgerald noted Kyle Jeffery was helping at the Tree Lighting along with a friend. Mr. Hennessy explained how helpful the two were during the preparations. He will contact Jeannette Bruno at CNHS to set up students to assist for the Memorial Day Parade. Ms. Laufer asked why not bring back Student Government Day. The Mayor explained the reason why Student Government Day did not continue was because of a \$400 fee for a school bus to bring students to Township Hall. Ms. Laufer noted Mr. Hennessy has a school bus. Mayor Fitzgerald will contact the Regional District Superintendent to possibility resurrect Student Government Day.

Old Business

Stewards of the Parks Report – Mr. Hennessy advised Ms. Burke as decided she will not be returning to the committee for 2014, he asked for a volunteer to be steward for Bucks Mill Park. Ms. Laufer asked didn't the Lions Club adopt Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Hennessy replied they did, however the park is till the responsibility of this committee. Ms. Laufer volunteered to be steward for Bucks Mill Park.

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Whispering Pines Art Festival – Mr. Hennessy thanked Mr. Maida for sponsoring the contest. He noted he and Barbara provided an environment for the children and adults to talk about their paintings.

Mr. Rehm noted he has seen spray painting and axes taken to several trees at Freer Preserve. He and Mr. Hennessy will be visiting the Preserve. Mr. Hennessy suggested it may be time to install security cameras at the Preserve. Mr. Baker asked if Mr. Rehm saw any evidence of alcohol. He did not.

Veteran's Day Ceremony – See Liaison Report

Tree Lighting – See Liaison Report. Mr. Hennessy noted the News Transcript photographer was at the Tree lighting and expect to see a nice article in their next issue. Mr. Rehm noted this year the hot cocoa was excellent. Mr. Hennessy was concerned they would not do well being located at the Court House away from the center of activity, but Paul and Brian did serve 202 cups of hot cocoa.

Field Maintenance – Mr. Hennessy stated field maintenance is over for the year and everything looks great. Bucks Mill Park fields are lush. Mr. Maida noted the owner of the adjacent field at Five Point, Mr. Maida, passed away last week. It would be a good time to inquire about the property. Mr. Hennessy understood the owner was saving the land for his children. Mr. Maida sated they don't want to build on the land only farm it. Mr. Hennessy will investigate. He noted Monmouth County Parks awarded 13 grants for funding but none were land acquisitions.

New Business

Santa's Workshop – The event will be combined with the PTO Frosty Bazaar this Saturday at the Primary school, from 9 am - noon. Two art supervisors from the summer day camp will be running the workshop with supplies for 200 children to create a Christmas craft.

Mr. Maida asked what happened to the Williamsburg Christmas. Mr. Hennessy noted the Historical Committee was in charge of that event.

Letters to Santa – Barbara reported 15 letters have been received from the Town Hall mailbox.

Winter Program Guide – Mr. Hennessy stated the fitness classes are in this month's Journal. The program guide will be compiled in the coming week.

Revenue Report and Program Summary – Mr. Hennessy reported revenue has exceeded over \$200K; with new sports camps held this past summer. Mr. Maniaci, Colts Neck High School Band Director, contacted him with interest to begin a summer band camp in 2014.

2014 Recreation and Parks Budget – Documentation for the 2014 budgets has been received and will be prepared this month.

Mr. Hennessy noted resident Jacquie Lee continued to advance into the semi finals on the Voice television show.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer reported 65 attended today's luncheon at the Colts Neck Inn. Lunches at the Colts Neck Inn are working out well even though it is more expensive than the Primary School. Committeeman Schatzle advised Ms. Laufer he would support a funding increase for the Seniors in 2014 to offset the luncheon costs. The Christmas luncheon will be held at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank next week. Recently, 54 went on the bus trip to Atlantic City. In February a trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse is scheduled.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7 pm. Due to a conflict the meeting will be held at 14 Heyers Mill Road.

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Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary