

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 5, 2014**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Ed Piotrowski, Judy Laufer, Paul Wild, Christopher Adams, Rich Rehm, Brian McNally, Phil Maida

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Joe Mancino

Township Liaison Present: Mayor Russell Macnow

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 January 8, 2014.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Mr. Hennessy noted the Treasurer Report is one quarter of the annual budget. Once the budget is passed next month the remainder the money will be added.

He continued by showing the committee local newspaper articles of recent Recreation activities such as Christmas Tree Lighting, Veteran's Day and Whispering Pines Art Contest.

Old Business

2014 Recreation and Parks budgets – Mr. Hennessy postponed item until Mayor Macnow arrives.

Colts Neck Sports Foundation Recreational use of the Community Center - Mr. Hennessy stated Sports Foundation's recreational soccer program has increased to 50 children. Mr. McNally asked if they will be throwing off portable mounds. Mr. Hennessy noted that was a good idea and he will check BSN Sports to purchase an indoor mound. It costs approximately \$4,000 to heat the Community Center so it is nice to have the building occupied.

Winter Programs - Mr. Hennessy advised all programs are going well despite the weather. The Barre class is a slow start but we are promoting it to attract additional registrants. A big attraction is a new monthly yoga meditation class.

New Business

Stewards of the Park – There were no reports given the weather. Mr. Hennessy has been cross country skiing for the last 2 weeks at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. McNally asked if he saw anyone else in the park. He has seen one other person snow shoeing and a few dog walkers. He's also noted there are fewer signs of deer.

Upcoming Events – The committee reviewed the upcoming events. Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 12th (rain date April 19th), Children's Easter Crafts, Saturday April 5th, Earth Day Week, April 20 – 26th, Colts Neck Classic Bicycle Race, Sunday, May 4th, Memorial Day Parade May 26th, Cole Brothers Circus, June 9th, 10th, and 11th, Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 7th, Battle of Monmouth Lacrosse Tournament June 14th – 15th, Colts Neck Pet Fair, May 24th and 25th, Summer Camp June 30th – August 8th. Mr. Hennessy brought attention to the upcoming Cole Brothers Circus at Bucks Mill Park on June 9, 10, and 11. The event will also bring in revenue to the Township. Also included in advance of the June dates is a clown visit to the Colts Neck High School drama club to provide insight on drama and being a clown. Mr. Maida asked what part of the park will be used for parking. Mr. Hennessy said Field # 1 same area as parking for the Colts Neck Fair. The circus will offer two shows each day. They expect to have at the most, 500 cars. Mr. Maida asked who will be running the parking, Mr. Hennessy said Cole Brothers. Mr. Hennessy

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negotiated the higher fee of \$1,500 per day from Cole Brothers with a total of \$4,500 revenue to the Township. Mr. Maida noted the first thing they need to do is fill in a big hole in the parking area. Mr. Wild asked if this was the same circus that came ten years ago. Mr. Hennessy was not sure. Mr. Piotrowski asked what it will cost for admission to the circus. Mr. Hennessy did not know at this time. Colts Neck Pet Fair will be held May 24 and May 25. Mr. Hennessy was not sure if the Colts Neck Fair will be ready to partner with the Pet Fair. Mr. Maida noted the Monday meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather. The Pet Fair will have Save the Shore, Monmouth County SPCA, and animal shelters in attendance. Mr. Maida said the Colts Neck Fair plans to be held the end of June.

Liaison Report – Mayor Macnow stated the weather and budgets are the major items. Salt for the roads is very hard to come by, the main roads are the priority. We do have enough of the weekend if it becomes necessary. January has been a rough start to the new year.

Old Business

2014 Recreation and Parks Budgets – both budgets were distributed for the committee to review. Mr. Hennessy pointed out the increase in Account 242 (Agricultural supplies) found in the Parks Budget. The fields have skipped aerations in 2013 and he'd like to have it done twice this year. One of the key factors in growing grass is aeration. He negotiated the same cost paid four years ago from Tuckahoe (vendor) for infield mix. Mayor Macnow asked about the infield mix item in two areas on the budget, one capital and the other regular budget item. Mr. Hennessy would like both budget requests, however it depends where Mr. Bowden would like it to be categorized. Mr. Hennessy obtained a price of \$4K for lime. As a requirement of the state mulch, will be placed along the area around playground equipment. He would also like to place mulch on the fit trail at Town Hall. Mr. Boag secured a "broken bag" deal for fertilizer with Lawes which will help keep the cost low. The Department of Public Works will only cut, trim grass and maintain the fields.

Parks Budget - Mr. Hennessy noted he is requesting again \$9K in the Parks budget for 2 temporary summer workers. If anyone has additional questions after this meeting, Mr. Hennessy asks they contact his office.

Graph Income vs. Expense - Mr. Hennessey distributed revised color coded graphs depicting income in green vs. expenses in red. Mayor Macnow noted this graph is a positive selling feature for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Capital Park projects

Five Point Park - Mr. Hennessy explained Mr. Boag's son will be doing work on Five Point Park as an Eagle project. A goal is to create a 46/60 or 50/70 field at Five Point from existing smaller field, the initial bid for the project was \$17K. Mr. Hennessy stated with Mr. Boag and his son, the town is saving approximately \$10K. Irrigation would also be needed, and there is a well in place. The Sports Foundation may possibly provide 50% of the \$10K cost.

Laird Rd. # 3 - Mr. McNally asked what is the status of Laird Road back field. Laird Road # 3 has a drainage issue, which would be resolved in a three stage project, Mr. Hennessy noted. He provided a presentation board with field diagrams and details. Moving forward with the Capital projects for field improvements would create a positive impact on field scheduling and revenue for the Township. Mr. Adams noted 50/70 fields are hard to come by, the Five Point project is an investment for the Town. Mayor Macnow stated budget meetings will take place the end of this month. Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Hennessy to have an engineer review the project plans for Laird Road. Mr. Hennessy noted he would speak to Mr. Garito.

Mr. Valenti stated the Capital projects may be viewed by others as a focus on baseball only. Mr. Hennessy stated the other fields do not cost as much money to maintain as baseball fields. He added the Sports Foundation will be building a shelter at Laird Road.

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Cedar Drive - Discussion continued about soccer fields, the upper field at Cedar Drive is not a good field. Five Point is being investigated as a full sided home field for soccer.

Upper Field Bucks Mill - It would probably cost more than \$200K to regrade the upper field at Cedar Drive. Mr. Adams believes Youth Football and Cheer are fundraising to raise money for the work on the upper field, with the intent to make that a home field for football.

Bucks Mill Park - Mr. Hennessy stated new grills will be installed at Bucks Mill Park in time for Spring. Another Capital project request from Mr. Hennessy is to install a portable fence at Bucks Mill to be used for the canine agility group. This group would provide revenue opportunity for citizen participation to the Township. He is still working towards an Equine/Canine facility which too, would produce revenue. It would be smaller than the Dream Park facility in Gloucester County. Green Acres would waiver the field mitigation and Monmouth County Parks could match funds up to \$200K. Currently, the Dog Lure Coursing involves 12 canine clubs and Colts Neck is becoming the center for agility and obedience training. Last year, lure coursing provided \$4,000 in rental fees. Mr. Valenti asked what is the percentage of participation from Colts Neck residents related to the dog activities. Mr. Hennessy replied, not as much as he would like.

Misc. Budget Discussion - Mr. Valenti asked if there are other projects in town that need attention for the residents vs. outside groups. Mr. Hennessy noted the money used for an equine/canine facility with an outdoor ring would make money back for the Township. Mr. Valenti inquired about the condition of the tennis and basketball courts throughout town. Mr. Hennessy stated he is looking to move money designated for tennis court improvements to basketball courts at Cedar Drive. Ms. Laufer asked if he were speaking about the money from the Board of Education related to the Conover Road School tennis courts. Mr. Hennessy explained the money is from capital designated solely for tennis court repair. He rarely sees the tennis courts used and noted there are five tennis courts at Colts Neck High School residents can use, rather than add any at Cedar Drive. Mr. Valenti asked about the condition of trails throughout the township. Mr. Hennessy stated except for one tree down on the path at Cedar Drive, all other trails are in excellent condition. He noted the runners using the trail at Town Hall have called him and are grateful for the maintenance of the fit trail. Mr. McNally asked if the graffiti was removed from the stations at the fit trail. Mr. Hennessy stated it was removed by him last year.

Field Utilization

Bucks Mill Park - the Department will receive \$8K in rental fees at Bucks Mill for soccer and lacrosse tournaments this year.

Upper Cedar Drive – will be used by Colts Neck lacrosse as well as Colts Neck Youth Football.

Laird Road # 2 - Mr. Hennessy shared a step down pitching rubber for installation at Laird Road # 2 field. This will be an experiment in hopes of the pitching mound will be less apt to deteriorate.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary