

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 3, 2016**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: February 3, 2016**

Attendees: Chris Adams, Frank Baker, Phil Maida, Judy Laufer, Paul Wild, Joe Mancino, Brian McNally, Ronnie Sullivan

Excused Absence: Rich Rehm, D.J. TenHoeve, John Rocco

Township Liaison Absent: Mr. Eastman

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from January 6, 2016.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project – Colts Neck resident, Emily Davis, a High School Junior and President of the First Aid Cadets, presented to the committee, a proposed park project. She plans to refurbish the Blind Garden located behind the First Aid building. The garden will be dedicated to the deceased first responders of Colts Neck's First Aid and Fire Departments. She will design an honor roll plaque of all deceased members of the fire department and first aid, repair/paint the current fencing, plant new flowers/greenery and provide a rain barrel for watering the plants. Mr. Baker advised Emily to be careful, as there is a large woodchuck hole near the gate of the garden. Mr. McNally asked how long would it take for her to complete the project. Emily replied, she'd like to start as soon as the weather improves and plans to hold a dedication to the garden in August. She will have assistance from fellow girl scouts. Mr. Hennessy noted an irrigation line does exist between the Library and the garden. Mr. Adams ask for approval for the project from the committee, all approved. Mr. Hennessy thanked Emily for coming to the meeting and sharing her worthy project.

Old Business

2016 Recreation and Parks Budget Review – Mr. Hennessy advised the committee of two additions to the capital budget. He added a line item to purchase folding chairs for the Community Center. When the building was opened 84 chairs were available, now there are 53. We advertise seating for 80, so additional chairs are needed. The 2nd line item is erecting a security fence at Bucks Mill Park carried over from 2015. The fencing would protect the upper field and the area behind the Community Center. Mr. Hennessy advised that on the evening of March 3rd, he will present budgets for Recreation and Parks to the Township Committee at 8:15 p.m.

The budget for Special Events is subject to a decrease to \$4,500 from a 2015 actual of \$5,340. Special Events monies are used for the Tree Lighting, Fishing Derby and Memorial Day. Mr. Hennessy has an idea to build up attendance at the Memorial Day Parade by providing banners to township groups. These groups would march and draw spectators to attend the parade. Mr. Mancino suggested increasing advertising, by going to the Business Association to advertise the parade. Mr. McNally suggested the attendance at the end of the parade may be decreased because of the free hot dogs. Ms. Sullivan suggested making the parade longer. She also noted the Rumson Parade includes a stage coach donated by Wells Fargo Bank. It is an interesting feature of the parade which is well attended. Mr. Hennessy will pursue ideas with the Business Association.

Mr. Hennessy explained an Eagle Scout project was to plant trees at Bucks Mill and Laird so as to provide shade for specific fields. He will be pursuing suggested funding for the trees from a Shade Tree Committee fundraiser, rather than request funding from the Township.

Mr. McNally asked if the case was settled related to the damage at Bucks Mill Park. Judge Oxley settled the case. The persons were told to pay \$20,800 for damages. If at the end of 2016 it is not paid, the case will become a civil case. The money will be going into the Township's general fund, not Recreation and Parks Department.

Community Center Winter Activities – Soccer, baseball, Girl Scout cookie distribution are all activities taking place in during winter months. The facility is being used every day.

Stewards of the Park - Mr. Rocco had asked at the last meeting if it were possible to reassign parks/preserves. Mr. Adams suggested the current list be distributed to the committee for review. Mr. Hennessy will distribute the assignments.

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45 Day User Task Force – Mr. Adams stated the 45 day life span of the committee will commence on January 31. The group will present their recommendations to the Township committee on ways to maintain, upgrade and develop recreation/sports fields in the Township. Ms. Sullivan suggested the Township obtain a grant to help fund park projects. Mr. Wild suggested sponsors for fields to offset costs. Mr. Hennessy will investigate rules regarding public parks and sponsors.

New Business

Upcoming Events below were reviewed by Mr. Hennessy.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 19th (rain date March 26th)

Earth Day Week, April 17th – 23rd

Ultimate Frisbee Tournament – April 16th, 17th and April 30th, May 1st

CNHS Powder Run 5K – May 14th

Memorial Day Parade May 30th

Maverick Lacrosse Tournament, June 4th

Fishing Derby, Sunday, June 5th

Battle of Monmouth Lacrosse Tournament June 11th – 12th

Summer Camp June 27th – August 5th

Summer Camp Counselor and Staff letters were mailed letters and applications inviting them to return this summer. Supervisory staff has had several meetings in preparation of summer camp and trips for both camps are being planned. Mr. Hennessy recently attended Monmouth County's Winter Fest. Activities included archery and nature studies. He will be bringing to the summer camps both events. Mr. Baker asked if camp will be extended this year. Mr. Hennessy replied no, the hours were extended from 1 pm to 2 pm. Extending the camp from 6 to 7 weeks is difficult, as many counselors need to return to college. He plans to offer near minimum wage for new counselors this year. Camp registration may be raised by \$20 to cover additional pay increases if approved by the Township Committee. Mr. Hennessy will continue to keep the cost of the camp as attractive as possible for residents.

Field Refurbishment – Mr. Adams, indicated the Travel Soccer Club of the Colts Neck Sports Foundation will salvage existing fence pieces where possible and utilize them on the far side of the upper field at Bucks Mill Park.

Mr. Hennessy provided an overview of income vs. expenses for Recreation. Ms. Sullivan asked if there are any program "losers" not making money. Mr. Hennessy stated if a program (i.e. Pilates) does not meet financial expectations and produce revenue, it is no longer kept on the schedule.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer reported the Seniors had a meeting today at the Colts Neck Inn. The Township Liaison J.P. Bartolomeo noted the Township Website reflects a revised 911 system. A representative from the Colts Neck Police Department officer advised burglaries in Colts Neck have decreased, however, be sure to always lock your cars. The club recently attended a play at Two River Theater "Lies of Reasons". February they'll travel to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

Mr. Hennessy made note of the Senior building fund for a Senior Center that was mentioned at the January meeting, and asked Ms. Laufer to explain how the money was acquired. Ms. Laufer stated the founding member, Ms. Lupio, wanted the Township to erect a Senior Citizen Center. They raised \$30K, a building was not erected, yet their money remained. When Ms. Laufer became President, she was told the money could not be touched. The Township CFO manages the money.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Adams, adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary