

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – January 9, 2013**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: January 9, 2013**

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

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito and Frank Baker

Absent: Candice Burke, Joe Mancino, Ed Piotrowski

Township Liaison Excused Absence: 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 December 5, 2012.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Valenti announced Ms. Laufer is the new committee member and that the committee looks forward to working with her this year.

Old Business

Letters to Santa – Mr. Hennessy reported over 100 Santa Letters were collected this year. Two mail receptacles were set up in town, one at the Colts Neck Post Office, the other at Township Hall. Ms. Burke assisted Ms. Byrne with the letters. We had several children from surrounding towns participating. Adult and Children's Holiday Workshop - Mr. Hennessy delivered tables to the PTO "Frosty" event at the Primary school. He inquired about having Recreation and Parks sponsor a craft workshop next year at the Frosty event. The PTO seemed interested in partnering. We would supply a craft Instructor and materials and the children would make holiday crafts. We would be bringing our event to the marketplace and increase participants. Mr. Hennessy will create a banner to advertise the department at the event in December.

2013 Budget – Mr. Hennessy stated the budget documents are a work in process. He has not had a chance to discuss the budget with Mr. Bowden, township Administrator.

New Business

Earle – Mr. Hennessy was invited, with others, to a luncheon at EARLE. He met with the Commander and discussed opportunities to engage the military personnel at the base in recreation programs. Mr. Hennessey offered a 50% discount for all programs for military at the base. Mr. Valenti asked what is the target group. Mr. Hennessy stated approximately 1,000 military personnel and dependants are living on the base. Generally, in their 20s. Mr. McNally asked what programs are they interested in. Mr. Hennessy stated dance classes.

Winter Program Guide – Mr. Hennessy noted 2 new programs on the cover of the program guide, Booty Barre 101 and Pilates Fusion. He distributed the Winter Program Guide and asked the committee if they noticed anything new as they drove into 14 Heyers Mill. He explained he has renamed the building "Studio 14" by placing a sign underneath the sign on Heyers Mill Road and one in the kiosk as you drive into the parking lot. This is an attempt to attract more people and have remove the "old grange" or "old library" concept to one of a beautiful exercise room. He is also asking for ideas to pass the information to the public. One idea is to replace the program guide with a color post card. Mr. Hennessy based on his own

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survey, noted the program guide is not read by as many residents as he would like. If a postcard is implemented the information would still remain on the Department website. Mr. Wild noted the opposite and likes the current program guide. He would be more likely to discard a post card. Mr. Hennessy stated he would be exploring options.

Town Hall Pond – Mr. Hennessy stated the dredging project is complete and he is looking into having the pond stocked with fish. Mr. Maida asked if the 2nd pond would be dredged. Mr. Hennessy said no. Ms. Laufer said the 2nd pond is called “Phase 2” by the Township Committee. Mr. Maida asked if there is a pipe connecting the new ponds. Mr. Hennessy said yes. The Township had removed 1,050 fish from the pond prior to the start of the project. He would start with bait fish and move into a bass stocking program. He explained to Committeeman Orgo on Monday after Environmental Committee meeting he would attached weights to Christmas trees and sink them so eggs would form onto the branches. He asked Mr. Rehm if trout would be an option. Mr. Rehm stated unless you have an underground spring the water temperatures would get too warm for the trout and they would begin to die. Mr. Rehm suggested Mr. Hennessy contact the state for assistance in stocking the pond.

Mr. Hennessy shared his theory on the increase in resident geese during Hurricane Sandy. The geese moved from the shore, west to Colts Neck and they are not leaving. Mr. Rehm commented it has been relatively mild without snow too. Ms. Laufer thought Mr. Thompson, Director of Public Works was having a meeting to remove the geese. A new Wildlife Commission has been formed by Mr. Orgo. Mr. Hennessy is looking into the possibility of a snow fence to discourage the geese from concentrating in certain areas of Bucks Mill.

Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Hennessy was contacted by a member of Troop # 290 looking for a project. Mr. Rehm stated Freer Preserve is in need of help. Many many trees are down. Mr. Hennessy explained he believes the project needs to include building or enhancing the environment. Mr. Rehm noted trails need to be cleaned up. Mr. Hennessy stated the Trail Riders have offered funding to clean the trails. He asked if anyone on the committee has an idea for a project. He suggested to Mr. McNally perhaps linking the trails at Obre Preserve to the ones bordering in Tinton Falls. Mr. McNally advised the preserve does need a nice sign, similar to the sign on Laurelwood Road for Big Brook Preserve. Mr. Hennessy noted to Mr. Valenti, that the Schlesinger fund is growing and perhaps, in a few years the funding will be there for a new bridge.

2012 Year in Review – Mr. Hennessy stated 13 new programs were introduced this year including the Battle of Monmouth Lacrosse tournament Bucks Mill, as well as the Lure Course and CAT for dogs. This year, they will continue to use Bucks Mill Park for a Pet Fair in part supporting the military Wounded Warrior project. The township receives \$10K in revenue from the annual Art and Craft Festival. Mr. Hennessy stated the projected revenue for 2012 was \$185K, the actual revenue for Recreation and Parks was \$223K for 2012. Mr. Maida asked if all that money goes into the general fund, why we can't keep some as a “credit”. Mr. Hennessy did spend 98% of the Recreation budget and 90% of the Parks budget. He did encumber \$11,280 from 2011 into 2012 for field work. He explained in order to lime and fertilize all Township playing fields twice and aerate one time the cost is \$24K. And the results were excellent! Mr. McNally commented the \$223K in revenue was great. Mr. Valenti asked if there were historical revenue statistics from the past ten years. Mr. Hennessy said Mr. Antonides, CFO could provide that report. He stated the revenue has increased an average of 33% over the past 4 years. Mr. Hennessy as additional ideas to generate business, he'll introduce programs to the Pop Warner field, which is under-utilized. The program will use the existing storage container there for their equipment. Mr. Maida asked what group is using the polo field. Mr. Hennessy stated the one Polo group scheduled the field for 12 events but only had 5 last year. Mr. Valenti asked if the original Polo club is still using the field. Mr. Hennessy stated no, just Yellow Cab Polo remains. Mr. Rehm asked if those five Polo events were well attended. Mr. Hennessy stated they were all charity events. Ms. Laufer noted she believes the Senior Citizen club is not using the storage trailer at Bucks Mill, if Mr. Hennessy needed it he could check with Mr. Walsh. Mr. Hennessy will continue to create opportunities for increased revenue this year.

2013 Outlook - Mr. Valenti asked what the schedule was for the budget process. Mr. Hennessy stated he will not know the final budget until April. He still needs to meet with Mr. Bowden and Mr. Antonides. He

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explained if programs do not pay for themselves, they will be cancelled. He noted Colts Neck hosted the first in New Jersey, certification program for potential Booty Barre instructors, which is the latest trend in fitness. The Department also hosted an event of African Dance for one weekend.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer reported 60 were in attendance at the last meeting, with enrollment up to 195. Future trips: NJ Reparatory Theater in Long Branch, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, 4-nights in Boston and pending cruise. All trips are paid for by the Seniors Ms. Laufer stated. Mr. Walsh is looking for a new Treasurer for the club and there is discussion of a Senior Citizen Center. Mr. Hennessy noted Senior Citizens make up less than 6% of the population in Colts Neck.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary