

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES; September 4, 2013**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Phil Maida, Joe Mancino, Judy Laufer, Paul Wild

Absent: Frank Baker, Brian McNally, Ed Piotrowski, A.J. Garito, Candice Burke, Rich Rehm

Township Liaison Present: Mike Fitzgerald

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

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

The Committee approved the minutes of June 5, 2013.

Note: Due to the number of absent members, there was not a quorum.

Old Business

Fishing Derby - Mr. Hennessy stated there were sixty participants for the Fishing Derby. The event was moved up a month to June, however the fish didn't seem to be biting as usual. Each participant caught at least one fish, with quite a few bass. He noted the ponds at Town Hall have been stocked with fish.

Summer Camp Recap – Approximately 300 plus children attended the camp this year. Mr. Hennessy highlighted all of the staff returned making it a very special and successful summer. Next year rather than extending camp by another week for 7 weeks, the camp will extend each day by one hour to 2:00 pm. After taking an informal poll, Mr. Hennessy reported this would allow mom's to have lunch and run errands for an extra hour each day.

New Business

Stewards of the Park – Mr. Hennessy announced the Lions Club is adopting Bucks Mill Park and will complete multiple projects. First on the list is repairing the fence at the old Polo Field. Other projects include removing the announcer's stand and replacing the overhang on the Community Center to eliminate the ability for birds to nest?? The Lions Club is very eager to being the projects once a Saturday date is set.

Mr. Hennessy asked if anyone else had any comments. Mr. Valenti noticed the improved Fitness Trail at Township Hall. Mr. Hennessy stated the trails were rototilled yesterday. Mr. Valenti asked if gravel will be added to the trails. Mr. Hennessy added the fine dust from the rototill will remain on the trails. Mr. Maida asked how Mr. Hennessy would eliminate the birds from the overhang on the Community Center. Mr. Hennessy stated netting or the small fan like objects found in train stations would be used.

Fall Brochure Publication and Update – The brochure has been mailed to all residents, Mr. Hennessy reported. He added future brochures will not reflect a map of parks, but will include a park reference found on our website. Mr. Valenti asked who runs the Young Men's Basketball League. Mr. Hennessy replied, Louie Beninanto.

Field Maintenance – Mr. Hennessy has received permission from Jeannette Bruno, Activities Director and the Principal of Colts Neck High School to use their fields when necessary while Bucks Mill Park Fields # 2 and # 3 are being refurbished. The arrangement will support the many field requests received from sports groups. Mr. Hennessy had soil samples sent to Rutgers University, resulting in perfect conditions for grass to grow. There are currently eight teams playing at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Valenti asked are the eight teams Colts Neck. Mr. Hennessy replied, eight teams with 6-8 Colts Neck children on the team. All are from Colts Neck Travel teams associated with USABL. Next week the first application of fertilizer will

begin with a second application scheduled for November. Five Point Park's soccer irrigation was installed. The project cost approximately 25K (including electric) with approximately 11K from the Township?? Mr. Valenti commented that was a good price. Mr. Hennessy stated Storr Tractor was a great vendor. Mr. Valenti asked what happens to the Kifco unit and its storage shed. Mr. Hennessy replied the unit may be used for field number 2 if we move it from the shed. He noted years at the same site per the bond have been met and the unit can be moved to another park. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if it could be used at Laird Road number 3 and 4. Mr. Hennessy noted there is not a water source there. Mr. Maida added there is no storage shed there either. Mr. Hennessy commented, perhaps bringing a fire truck over to supply water similar to a pool fill. With the elimination of the Polo Field announcers (which will be knocked down) stand pending and the side boards, the field is becoming a lacrosse/soccer center. The polo field has been configured and lined into four soccer fields. Mr. Hennessy explained with low enrollment in the Sports Foundation, Wild Cat Soccer group booked any remaining field use at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Maida asked what happened to the Polo Club. Mr. Hennessy stated the non-Township plays on Long Island, NY.

Mr. Hennessy stated Colts Neck Sports Foundation will be building a 200' shelter at Laird Road in front of the snack shed to include picnic tables. All expenses will be paid for by the Sports Foundation.

Events - Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee September 28 and 29 the annual Art and Craft Harvest Festival will take place at Bucks Mill Park. Whispering Pines Art Contest begins this month. Mr. Hennessy noted to Mr. Maida there will be a contest among students of Colt Neck High School related to painting a mural on our Studio 14 wall. This contest will be a separate event from Whispering Pines. Sports Foundation Fall baseball and soccer is underway. The date of our Veteran's Day Ceremony has not been confirmed, per Mr. Hennessy. He was advised by the Principal of Cedar Drive, Colin Rigby November 11 is an in service day for teachers and students will not be attending school that day. Dog Coursing and Practice continues at the old Polo field at Bucks Mill Park with over five different Kennel Clubs participating. The program is very successful on Friday evenings and Sundays and is not exclusive to pedigree dogs. All are welcome!

Miscellaneous – Mr. Hennessy is exploring the possibility of building an Equine/Dog Center at Bucks Mill Park. The Center- would consist of an indoor ring and stables. Chairman Engle once championed this project. Funding may be obtained from Monmouth County Parks. They support grants with the approval of the Freeholders for such projects. Mr. Hennessy spoke to several commercial horse businesses/residents in the Township and they all thought this would not be an impact on their businesses. If the committee would like to view an example, Gloucester County is the closest Equine center. This would be an example for the business plan. Mr. Valenti asked for clarification on the project. Mr. Hennessy stated it would hold horse events and some dog events. It would also align the Town with its heritage of being a horse community. Mr. Mancino asked where the Center would be located. Mr. Hennessy stated a possible location would be near the old polo field area backing up to Quiet Winter Farm. He would then move the soccer use toward the pond. It would have corrals, an unheated barn with large windows. The area would include an arena vs. barn. Mayor Fitzgerald commented electricity would need to be provided. Mr. Valenti asked if Monmouth County has a similar center on Koslowski Road. Mayor Fitzgerald stated the barn area would need to be approximately 100' x 250' for horses. Mr. Mancino noted this is a great idea you would probably be able to get volunteers from the community to build it.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer explained due to security issues the Seniors will no longer be able to have their monthly meetings at the Primary School. Members are looking for another location. Mr. Mancino suggested the firehouse. Mayor Fitzgerald explained the township is looking at other places for the club to meet, including Old Bridge and sharing the senior center at Marlboro. The club has an upcoming trip to Washington DC.

Township Liaison – Mayor Fitzgerald stated a windmill will be built between the two ponds at Town Hall and will irrigate the two ponds. This will promote fish life in both ponds. Congressman Chris Smith supported Colts Neck during Hurricane Sandy in terms of FEMA monies. The Township will be receiving 90% of the funds spent during the hurricane. Along with Congressman Smith,

the Mayor noted Mr. Bowden, Mr. Thompson, Chief Sauter for their work in compiling the needs of the Township in one document to submit with FEMA. He also noted residents Mr. Cifelli and Mr. Sakoutis for donating their business's towards the clean up efforts, asking the committee if they see these men to please say thank you.

Mayor Fitzgerald continued by saying the Department of Energy's Under Secretary came to Colts Neck and was impressed with the comfort stations at Township Hall. The comfort station idea was Committeeman Schatzles'.

Mr. Maida added the Women of the First Aid Squad did a great job providing support during Hurricane Sandy.

Mayor Fitzgerald concluded the Township's Volunteers did a great job!

He noted if anyone has any questions or concerns about anything in the Township, please send him an email.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne
Secretary