

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – December 7, 2011**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
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Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Ed Piotrowski, Paul Wild, Joe Mancino, Phil Maida, Leonor Lesta

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Candice Burke, Brian McNally

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

Also in attendance: Judy Laufer

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 2, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Steward's Reports – Mr. Hennessy noted with the warmer temperatures, the Veteran's Day wreath looked very well at Memorial Park. (Mr. Maida). Mr. Baker stated he Township Park looked good. He shared photos of graffiti on several of the fit stations along the pathway. Mr. Hennessy stated he covered the stations with plastic and tape. Either they were pulled off or the wind blew them off. He attempted removal with two different graffiti removal solutions. He will attempt another graffiti remover. Mr. Wild commented the basketball courts at Conover Road do not have the cushion mats. It would be a good idea to have them for safety purposes. Mr. Hennessy is not sure who is responsible Recreation or the Board of Education, he will find out. Mr. Hennessy will check the responsibility for Cedar Drive's tennis and basketball courts.

Whispering Pines Art Festival – Ms. Rao, Art Teacher at Conover Road Elementary school (and Supervisor of our Conover Road day camp) got her students involved in the event. We had more Youth entries than last year. We also had nine adult paintings. Mr. Hennessy thanked Mr. Maida for his continued support in the event.

Veteran's Day Ceremony – Mr. Hennessy stated the ceremony was marvelous. The Colts Neck Journal had a nice article in the December issue featuring the Commander from Earle. He will be working to increase more projects with Earle. All seating was filled at the event Mr. Hennessy counted 25 Veteran's in attendance with an overall count of 80 participants.

Tree Lighting – Mr. Hennessy expresses his appreciation to Mr. Maida's contribution in creating the sound system. Music continued playing throughout the entire event and it sounded great. Mr. Maida arrived at 1 pm and stayed the end of the program. Mr. Hennessy was also very thankful to the other members of the committee who participated in the event, Paul Wild, Leonor Lesta, Frank Baker, and Jim Valenti. The Fire Police led Santa Claus to the gazebo. Ms. Lesta commented she could not hear the St. Mary's Choir singing. Many in the crowd continued talking over their singing as they were not aware they had started singing. Mr. Hennessy indicated they rehearsed on the steps of Town Hall. Mr. Hennessy stated the band worked out well, it wasn't until the last minute the previous brass band advised him they were no longer together and would not be able to perform at the tree lighting. Their leader made some telephone calls and John Luckenbill gathered musicians together for the afternoon performances. He is also the Conductor of the Shore Orchestra at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove. He did a nice job providing the musical entertainment. Mr. Valenti suggested additional lights be put on the Christmas Tree, many were not working when the tree was lit for the event.

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Field Maintenance – Mr. Hennessy has spent over 70 hours of his own time aerating and dragging all of the fields in the Township. He's also seeded the football field and Hispanic soccer field at Bucks Mill Road. This coming weekend he will be spreading lime and seed at Five Point Park. His involvement with the S.T.E.P. program allowed a student to hand seed around goal areas at the soccer fields. Mr. Hennessy explained he was advised late this season that the Public Works Department would not be available for field maintenance. Mr. Valenti asked how Mr. Hennessy put lime onto the fields. Mr. Hennessy replied he drove a Public Works tractor with a spreader. Liming of the larger field complexes will be completed by an outside company. Mr. Valenti asked if the Township would be privatizing field maintenance. He asked from the Townships perspective what services will the Department of Public Works be providing.

Mr. Hennessy stated he believes the Township Committee is aware something needs to be done either additional staff or temporary help to ensure the town is maintained. Mr. Maida asked how many employees are in Public Works. Ms. Lauer added four are out on disability, and at the recent Senior Citizen meeting Committeeman Engel indicated he hopes for no major snow storms, as money from snow removal was being moved for overtime to Public Works for leave pick up. Mr. Valenti expressed concern for future field maintenance. Mr. Hennessy stated he would mow all the fields if he has too. He presumes outside contractors maybe hired to assist Public Works. Ms. Laufer stated the Township is looking for alternatives for Public Work functions, such as have a dumpster at Town Hall for residents to drop off their own brush. Mr. Hennessy stated one idea was for all landscapers register with the Township; if they removed trees/leaves from a home owner, they would be responsible to take them away.

New Business

Holiday Celebrations – Adult Craft Workshop will take place on Monday, December 12. The Children's Craft Workshop will be held this Saturday, December 10. Letters to Santa Claus campaign is underway ending on December 21.

S.T.E.P. (Student Transition Employment Program) Mr. Hennessy shared the article in the Colts Neck Journal related to this program at Colts Neck High School. The Recreation and Parks Department has been involved with this program for several years. Most recently a student interested in janitorial services, moped the floor and cleaned the lower level of 14 Heyers Mill Road. Another student interested in landscaping, raked leaves and distributed mulch left over from the Arts and Crafts show in the rear garden of our building on 14 Heyers Mill Road.

Winter Program Guide - Mr. Hennessy stated the program guide will be mailed between December 24 and New Year's Day. He will start compiling programs for the guide this week. He noted he has initiated approximately 25 new programs this year; some don't make the minimum enrollment but most have been successful.

Revenue Report 2011 – Mr. Hennessy stated approximately 9K has been collected in revenue from field/park permits and another 12K in permits for the Community Center and Pavilion rentals.

Linkage Five Point and Mathews Road - Mr. Valenti asked how he would access the golf path today. Mr. Hennessy explained there is a parking lot behind the maintenance garage at Hominy Hill. He also provided several aerial maps of the potential linkage. Mr. Rehm asked if there would be signage to keep people from going onto the golf greens. Mr. Maida asked who would maintain the trail/linkage. Mr. Hennessy hopes the County would maintain it. Mr. Valenti asked why the Township is not creating a trail on a parcel of land on the map Mr. Hennessy provided. Mr. Hennessy stated the Township receives farming revenue from that parcel of land so the trail would positioned to further the cost of Township property. Mr. Valenti asked the number of parking spaces off Mathews Road. Mr. Hennessy concluded by saying the project is pending approval from the Regional Board of Education and the Township Committee. Mr. Valenti asked if there were any objectors. Mr. Hennessy stated no one has objected. It was a matter of getting all parties involved together and prioritizing.

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2012 Recreation and Parks Budget – Mr. Hennessy will be working on preparing the 2012 budget with Administrator, Bob Bowden.

Liaison Report - Mr. Hennessy on behalf of Mr. Engel stated he will remain as the Township Liaison for 2012. Mr. Hennessy commented it will be beneficial to have the Mayor as our liaison, and that Recreation and Parks are a top priority for Mr. Engel. Mr. Valenti, Mr. Maida, Mr. Piotrowski and Mr. Baker all are up for re-appointment to the Recreation Committee. The reappointment ceremony will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated one of their members turned 102 in November. The Christmas luncheon at the Molly Pitcher Inn was attended by 165 members. The next trip is to Atlantic City this month, February the club will attend a play at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary