

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee  
Minutes – December 5, 2012**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Ed Piotrowski, Paul Wild, Joe Mancino, Phil Maida, Candice Burke, Brian McNally

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Phil Maida

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

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 October 3, 2012.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

**Old Business**

Steward's Reports – Mr. Hennessy reported no structural damage to the block building at Bucks Mill Park. Replacement of the roof is in progress, however it has nothing to do with the hurricane. Township sports fields had no damage to backstops or fences. There was tree damage throughout the parks. An outside Vendor "Best" was hired to assist in cleaning up the Township. There is still much work to be done at the far end of Bucks Mill Park. Volunteers and work parties have come forward in offering to clean up the damage. Mr. Rehm reported vandalism is still occurring at Freer Preserve. A bench has been damaged along with someone using an axe to cut down various trees. The Hemlock trees continue to be plagued by disease too. Mr. Hennessy commented he will report the incident to the police department. Mr. McNally asked who is locking the gate at Laird Road. The park steward is Mr. Mancino. Mr. Hennessy explained the police lock the gate on December 1 for the season. He has been unlocking the gate for workers who are repairing a resident's fence along the fields. He noted the Port o Johns have been removed from the parks for the winter. The exception being Bucks Mill Park, 2 Port o Johns will remain, one between the two ponds the other near the Community Center.

Whispering Pines Art Festival – Both Mr. Maida and Mrs. Petrillo were in attendance at the awards ceremony. The Youth category was well represented with the assistance of Mrs. Rao, Art Teach at Conover Road Elementary. Mr. Hennessy stated next year the Festival will be expanded to include Cedar Drive and Colts Neck High School. In the past, information about the Festival had been distributed to area Art Guilds with few participants.

Veteran's Day Ceremony – The ceremony took place on Sunday November 11, with the Women's Club providing refreshments in the Library after the ceremony. Next year the ceremony will return to Cedar Drive School.

Christmas Tree Lighting – Mr. Hennessy noted the nice job Mr. McNally and Mr. Wild did serving the hot chocolate on Sunday. Mr. McNally estimated 200 cups of hot chocolate were served. Mr. Rehm also assisted at the event. Mr. Piotrowski represented the Volunteer Fire Police. Mr. Baker and Mr. Valenti did a nice job. Mr. Baker asked if Santa will be inside next year. Mr. Hennessy explained yes, the flow worked better in the Court House. He continued how festive the Court House was with the green roping and poinsettias. Mr. Hennessy expressed his appreciation for everyone's participation.

Field Maintenance – All fields have been aerated and limed. Mr. Hennessy commented how rewarding it is to see the growth at the fields. They are really looking good.

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Fishing Derby – Mr. Hennessy revisited the discussion from October's meeting related to changing the date of the event. Both Mr. Rehm and Mr. Piotrowski, experience fisherman agreed to move the event from July to early June would be a good time of year. Mr. Hennessy noted with the children still in school we may see an increase in participation.

### **New Business**

Holiday Celebrations – Adult Craft Workshop will take place on Tuesday, December 11. Ms. Burke asked what is the craft the adults would be creating. Ms. Byrne replied some type of live green creation. Gina Ryan a one time Florist owner brings live greens, decorations and her creativity to the workshop. The Children's Craft Workshop was held this past Saturday, December 1. Mr. Hennessy provided folding tables to the PTO for their Frosty event on Saturday. This event provides the children an opportunity to shop and buy gifts for family members. He will be bringing our Children's Craft Workshop to the marketplace by asking the PTO to partner with us next year. We would provide a craft workshop during the Frosty event. Letters to Santa Claus campaign is underway.

S.T.E.P. (Student Transition Employment Program) Mr. Hennessy shared the student assigned to Recreation and Parks really enjoyed working outdoors. He was so appreciative of picking up trash and working in the parks. He received a Thank You letter from the young man stating he was so grateful for the opportunity to work at Colts Neck Recreation and Parks.

Winter Program Guide - Mr. Hennessy stated he and Barbara will be working on the program guide this week into next week.

Preliminary Revenue Report 2012 and Program Summary – Mr. Hennessy stated the department is approximately \$20K ahead of last year in revenue which is a 14% increase. He's also introduced 14 new programs this past year. And is constantly keeping current to the latest fitness trends. Mr. Engel asked Mr. Hennessy provide these "accomplishments" to Mr. Bowden as part of the budget preparation. Mr. Engel will then share the information during the budget discussions.

2013 Recreation and Parks Budget – Mr. Hennessy will be working on preparing the 2013 budget with Administrator, Bob Bowden. Mr. Engel noted to compile the budget with the intention the Bond monies go through, this may impact the Parks portion of the budget. Mr. Hennessy stated there is some money outstanding he would like to carry over into 2013 for lime, aeration etc. He will discuss the possibility with Mr. Bowden.

Liaison Report – Mr. Engel noted immediately following this meeting is another meeting with members of the CNSF to discuss the Bond issue for upgrading sports fields. Mr. Hennessy noted the Trail Riders offered to replace 2 grills at Bucks Mill Park. He added the Pavilion now has only 5 picnic tables remaining. The Trail Riders also offered money to aid in the cleanup of trails at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Engel stated it would be helpful for budget discussions for the Recreation Committee to attend and support Mr. Hennessy in his presentation. Many residents who attend may not realize the money Mr. Hennessy asks for is for items like picnic tables at Bucks Mill. How can you rent the area out for picnics if there are not enough tables.

Before adjourning, Mr. Hennessy stated our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 2. We usually hold our meeting after the Township reorganization. It was agreed to have our next meeting **January 9 either at Township Hall or at 14 Heyers Mill at 7 pm.**

Mr. Engel asked the Committee if they have someone who would be interested in joining the recreation committee to submit their name to Mr. Bowden and complete an application at Township Hall. Mr. McNally recalled someone as the last meeting suggesting to add someone other than from the CNSF as we have many from that group already on the committee. Mr. Valenti mentioned someone from the Trail Riders Club was the suggestion at our last meeting. Mr. Valenti asked if we could review the budget at the January 9 meeting. Mr. Hennessy said yes, he would distribute the budgets prior to the meeting.

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Mr. Engel briefly stated the CNSF and the Township will move forward with the possibility to obtain a \$500K Bond for field improvements. This Bond would be spread over 15 years. The Township will draw up a legal contract. Mr. Valenti stated he thought at this meeting they would receive a revised project list from Mr. Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy stated the list has not changed. Mr. Hennessy added more money will be used to upgrade the baseball fields as they are harder to upgrade than soccer fields. Changing the verbiage in the project list to reflect "athletic fields" rather than baseball or soccer may occur. Mr. Rehm asked how soon would the Township receive the money. Mr. Engel stated almost immediately. Mr. McNally asked why that dollar amount why not a million dollars. Mr. Engel explained Mr. Antonides, CFO a larger amount of money was not in the best interest of the Township, in the event the CNSF dissolves. The Township would then need to pay the entire amount of the Bond. Mr. Rehm asked if another Bond would be necessary in another 15 years. Mr. Engel did not think so at this time. Basically the bond is not for stadiums but to regrade and pipe the fields, and some equipment resulting in the Department of Public Works having to do less maintenance. Improving the quality of the fields would increase the attraction to have tournaments in Town which would also increase the revenue of the CNSF.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary