

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – March 7, 2012**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: March 7, 2012**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Paul Wild, Joe Mancino, Phil Maida, Leonor Lesta, Brian McNally, Ed Piotrowski

Excused Absence: Candice Burke, A. J. Garito, Paul Wild

Township Liaison Present: 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 February 1, 2012.
(Note, date change to be corrected in heading)

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Presentation

Mr. Engel introduced Tony Abetelo who is working with the Colts Neck Fair Committee. Mr. Abetelo is suggesting a Western theme to the Fair and is working to include local country radio station, 106.7 FM radio to broadcast live. He discovered there is not enough room to include barrel racing at the Fair this year. He is hopeful to include a temporary ring to walk horses around. If the Township were to consider a permanent pen it would be a revenue producer. People would be charged a fee to use the round dirt area/multi use structure; it may also be used for dogs etc. Tony plans to include entertainer "Cowboy Larry", horse tricks and a possible steer. Because Colts Neck is a horse oriented town, the committee thought the rodeo theme was a good idea. The committee thanked Tony for sharing the Fair plans.

Mr. Engel will be bringing his Mayoral liaison, Matthew Motola to a future Recreation meeting to provide us with perspective on recreational needs for the youth of the Township.

Old Business

2012 Budgets – Mr. Engel stated Recreation and Parks general budget review on Saturday went very well. The Sports Foundation will continue to receive a donation of \$2,500 and the Senior Citizen's will receive a donation of \$35,000. Capital budget items are still being discussed. The biggest item is irrigation for the fields. The Township does have a great partnership with the Sports Foundation, who will be paying \$6K towards irrigation, along with the Township paying \$6K and the Township applying for a matching grant for irrigation from the County for Laird Road.

Creating a baseball complex at Laird Road and soccer complex at Bucks Mill Park are being discussed. Mr. Engel mentioned the plans in Visionquest/Master plan documentation. Mr. Valenti stated he has not seen the Visionquest documentation (Master plan). Mr. Engel mentioned it may seem there is more money being spent on baseball than soccer. Mr. Hennessy reminded the committee Five Point refurbished the soccer fields in past years. The fields also received a Kifco water reel and shed to house the Kifco unit.

Stewards of the Park

Mr. Rehm explained Freer Preserve's Hemlock trees are diseased. The issue was brought to Mr. Rehm's attention by Ms. Laufer. Based on Mr. Rehm's expertise, it would be a significant task to spray large trees and maintain the health of the smaller hemlock trees. The diseased trees will devastate Freer Preserve. Mr. Rehm will research other options to minimize the loss of the Hemlock trees.

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Mr. McNally reported Obre Preserve was in good shape. The only garbage item he found was a tire. All garbage had been picked up. It has been suggested to create trails at Obre Preserve. Mr. Hennessy stated trails do exist, but need to be better marked with potential to connect to Tinton Falls. This would be a good project for the Boy Scouts who camp out at Obre during the year.

Mr. Baker walked the fit trail at Township Hall and stated the woodchuck hole is now about 10' deep. The graffiti is also still on several stations of the fit trail. Mr. Hennessy will be applying a remover tomorrow on the graffiti.

2011 Income – Mr. Hennessy stated Recreation had \$188K in revenue for 2011. \$108K revenue came from the Summer Day Camp. The 2012 Summer Day Camp will be extended one week, from 6 weeks to 7 weeks this year. The request was based on survey results from participating parents and the Township Committee. The cost per child will increase to \$375/child from \$320/child in 2011.

Community Center Use – Mr. Hennessy read a list of groups using the building. Including indoor soccer, wrestling, dog obedience, and boy scouts.

Field Conditions and Conditioning - Mr. Hennessy reported it would take \$50K/year to maintain our playing surfaces properly for 1 year. Fields have been limed by an outside company. He commented it was an excellent process to watch when a company has the proper equipment, how quickly and efficiently the job got done. There is a remaining balance of \$7K which will be used in the fall for fertilizer by the same company. The only item in the Capital budget that did not gain approval was the parking at Laird Road # 3 and # 4 baseball fields.

Laird Road # 1 – Mr. Hennessey reported the field has been maintained by the Sports Foundation and is in great condition. The snack shed is almost complete and will be ready for opening day. Sports Foundation field permits will go out this week for usage till the end of June.

New Business

Earth Week April 21 – April 22 – Colts Neck High School will be cleaning Five Point Park Mr. Hennessy stated. The Dog Lure Coursing group will be cleaning Bucks Mill Park. They have events at Bucks Mill throughout the year and we receive a percentage of monies they collect.

Easter Program/Special Events – The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday March 31, at Firehouse # 1, along with Brunch with the Easter Bunny. Our Easter Craft program will be held on Tuesday March 20 at Cedar Drive School.

Summer Camp – June 25 – August 10 are the dates camp will be held this year. Mr. Hennessy stated it has been extended to 7 weeks. \$375 per child is the new fee for 2012.

Senior Citizen Club – Ms. Laufer stated the Senior Citizen's are very frugal when it comes to spending their money. Mr. Walsh negotiates for the best prices. In March there is a trip planed to the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, a trip to the N.J. Repertory Theater in Long Branch on April 19, with a luncheon at Nauvoo Grill in Fair Haven. During the days of May 21 – 24 a trip to Cape Cod, MA is scheduled.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary