

COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES: October 3, 2012

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Ed Piotrowski, Candice Burke, Paul Wild,
Brian McNally

Committee Excused Absences: Joe Mancini, Phil Maida, A.J. Garito

Township Liaison Present: 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 September 5, 2012.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Colts Neck Art and Craft Harvest Festival – Mr. Hennessy stated the event took place on September 29 and 30 and was a success. They have booked their dates for 2013 at Bucks Mill Park. Ms. Burke asked if there were any complaints about the event such as traffic. Mr. Hennessy commented the Colts Neck Fire Police at the last minute were unable to manage traffic, as our Police Chief decided they should not be directing traffic in major intersections. Our Police found a replacement from Middletown to direct traffic, but the replacement did not show for the event. Mr. Hennessy added the traffic flowed without issues on both days.

New Business

Events – MCISCCO Meet of Champions will be returning on October 24 to Bucks Mill Park. Busses will park at the high school. Mr. Hennessy noted, they are paying \$600 for use of Bucks Mill Park. The Community Band will have a concert on November 1 at the Colts Neck High school. November 11, Veteran's Day will be celebrated at Township Hall, followed by refreshments at the Library, courtesy of the Women's Club. Next year the event will return to Cedar Drive school, Mr. Hennessy noted. Whispering Pines Art Festival is underway, Mr. Hennessy will be partnering with Art Instructor, Ms. Rao from Conover Elementary School for youth participation.

Maintenance and Repair - Mr. Hennessy stated the 2nd liming of fields will be completed soon. Aerating will take place next week, then fertilizing for root growth and winter fortification. He noted how nice it looked at Bucks Mill with lush green grass and contrasting white tents during the Art and Craft Harvest Festival. Ms. Burke asked if there was any impacts to the fields from the festival. Mr. Hennessy replied there was not adverse impact. Mr. Hennessy explained two baseball fields in poor condition are at Bucks Mill, # 2 and # 3 and these fields have been re-conditioned by resident and Landscaper, Pat Boag, with infield mix and graded and seeded infield. Mr. McNally asked if Cedar Drive Middle school uses the Cedar Drive fields. Mr. Hennessy stated no, they are using Five Point Park. Mr. Hennessy toured all fields with Pat Boag, who made overall assessments for improvements.

Miscellaneous

Township Hall Pond Dredging – Mr. Piotrowski asked can't the Township use some of the fill from the pond on the fields. Mr. Hennessy stated some will be stored on the far side of the Polo field for future use. The County is doing all the work for an excellent price. They will be taking most of their material to

Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2012

the landfill in Tinton Falls. He clarified dredging is being done to one pond only. Mr. Piotrowski asked when the next pond will be dredged. Mr. Hennessy stated eventually it will be done. Someone asked what happened to the fish from the pond. Mr. Hennessy stated they were moved to the ponds at Bucks Mill Road.

Fishing Derby Date – Mr. Hennessy explained heat and humidity were very high in July for the Fishing Derby and suggested changing to May or June. Mayor Engle thought the same day as the Fair would be great. Discussion to continue at our next meeting.

Township Liaison – Mayor Engel stated there is a lot happening in town. He reported the Historic Preservation Committee will be having a Colonial Christmas celebration at Township Hall on December 9. A Colonial Santa would be set up at the Montrose School. Ms. Burke asked if they will be holding their Halloween event. He stated no. Mayor Engle asked Mr. Hennessy to contact the Community Band for their availability to perform during the event.

Colts Neck Fair Committee is seeking volunteers for 2013.

Deer Management Committee – A committee has been formed to develop a plan to decrease the deer population by allowing bow and arrow hunting in designated areas. Currently the township is working with the state. There will be a public meeting at the Court House next month to discuss the issue.

Parks and Open Space – Mayor Engel provided background to the committee related to field/park improvements by asking Mr. Hennessy to document a “wish list” for park/field improvements. The list was compiled from numerous meetings the Mayor had held with residents and discussions with the Sports Foundation. He then asked Mr. Hennessy to present this “wish list” at the July Township meeting. One outstanding item from the list was building “Cougar Stadium”. This particular item, Mayor Engel stated has been the topic of many discussions around town. Currently, Mayor Engel has met with Township Administration to determine the best approach to fund some of these improvements. Attendees included, Mr. Hennessy, Township Administrator, Mr. Bowden, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Antonides, Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald and Public Works Director, Mr. Thompson. Discussions are leaning at obtaining a Bond to pay for field improvements. Nothing has been decided, but the Township now has a plan to move forward to improve fields/parks. Ms. Burke asked why no one from the Recreation committee was asked to participate in these discussions. Mayor Engel noted meetings were with Administration. Mr. Valenti asked who has seen the plan. Ms. Burke commented this committee had come up with a 5 year plan years ago, is it the same plan. Ms. Burke expressed frustration in not knowing details of this plan. She commented she did miss several meetings, yet the minutes did not reflect any plan or mention of “Cougar Stadium”. She had been approached by residents regarding the topic. Mayor Engel apologized and would do a better job of communicating with the committee.

Committee Vacancy – Mayor Engel asked if anyone had a recommendation to fill the vacancy resulting in Ms. Lesta’s resignation. He mentioned a member of the Sports Foundation. Ms. Burke suggested having a woman replace Ms. Lesta and noted this committee already has several members who were from the Sports Foundation. Mayor Engel asked Ms. Burke to provide names to him for the vacancy. Mr. Valenti suggested having representation from a group other than the Sports Foundation, who uses the parks, for example, the Trail Riders.

Senior News – Ms. Laufer had no updates.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 7, 2012.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne