

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

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: September 7, 2011**

Attendees: Frank Baker, Rich Rehm, Ed Piotrowski, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, Leonor Lesta, Jim Valenti, Candice Burke

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Brian McNally, Joe Mancino

Township Liaison Present: Jarrett Engel

Also in attendance: Ms. Laufer, Virginia Amend

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 July 6, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Ms. Burke asked if the committee could receive the monthly Treasurer reports electronically with the monthly meeting agendas. Mr. Hennessy stated yes, that is not a problem.

Old Business

Stewards of the Park – Mr. Hennessy begin the meeting noting due to Hurricane Irene, most parks are in disarray. Ms. Burke was amazed that Public works were able to mow the soccer fields for Opening Day on September 10, given the cleanup in the Township. She was very appreciative of their work.

Fishing Derby was a great success, Mr. Hennessy stated. Ms. Burke said she understood the PBA in town offered to stock the pond at Bucks Mill for the fishing Derby, she'd also like to know the cost for stocking the pond. Mr. Hennessy stated all 12 boxes of worms were devoured at the event. Some children didn't bring their own bait. Ms. Burke commented if it were their first time fishing they may not have known what to supplies to bring.

Summer Day Camp was attended by 320 children, it was a great year, Mr. Hennessy commented.

Five Point Eagle Scout (Ken Davis) Project is almost complete. Mr. Hennessy explained the project for a 21' shed to house the kifco unit and tractor. The Sports Foundation provided the \$2,300 for expenses.

New Business

Fall Program Guide has been mailed to all residents. Mr. Hennessy noted the cover includes the first time published CNBA (Colts Neck Business Association) logo. September Calendar of Events - He also emphasized the many September events taking place at Bucks Mill. Noting the office is very busy even after summer day camp ends. Ashley Lauren, Women's Club rummage sale, American Football League Cheerleaders, Liz Lenza's charity, soccer, and Dog Lure Coursing, and Paw Pals are all scheduled for the community center in September. October brings the annual Craft Fair, cross country meets. Mr. Hennessy shared his appreciation to Mr. Rehm's daughter for creating a new sign depicting details of the paths and fitness trail at Township Park.

Guest Speaker Mr. Wheeler Wheeler

Mr. Valenti introduced Mr. Bud Wheeler, noting he has been participating on the Township Memorial Day Parade for close to 40 years. He also provides a salute with his musket at the Veteran's Cemetery. He was invited to attend tonight's meeting to share the history of Veteran's Park and the parade.

He began by stating a Revolutionary soldier; Mike Field is buried at the Cemetery and believed to have fought in the Battle of Monmouth. Mr. Field's grandson installed the iron fence during the Civil War era.

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

Heyers Mill Road at one time was much closer to the gravesite than it is now. Frank Clare the property owner donated/erected the monument which sits at the site today. The Memorial Day Parade was started by Mr. Wheeler and his good friend Walter Voorhees in 1972 and Boy Scout Troop #290 which also evolved the Joshua Huddy Fife and Drums.

Mr. Wheeler praised Walt for being a true Patriot. He was a Marine in WWII and was the absolute scout master. Unfortunately he was in a very bad car accident and experience recurring pain which did not allow him to hike with the troop any longer. At this point of time, Mr. Wheeler headed Troop 290 and led in physical activities, while Walter sewed the troops uniforms. (Mr. Wheeler was wearing one of these shirts/uniforms). In 1975, Mr. Wheeler led 4,000 scouts on a 9 mile hike between Chelmsford to Concord. As he led the hike with his 9 yr old daughter, he did not know what lied ahead. Crossing into a large field he came upon hundreds of hippies, he claimed it was like Moses splitting the sea, as these hippies parted to allow 4,000 scouts to march right through their field. Joshua Huddy fife and drum was also honored by the Queen of England when she visited Boston, and was on the cover of Boys Life magazine. Mr. Wheeler said he and Walt shared many many wonderful times as scout leaders and friends. Walt was like a father to many of those boys, some of now have successful military careers. One is now a Navy top gun, another an Air Force missile launcher. He was a part of their lives. These children were from neighboring towns, they were not only Colts Neck children.

After Walt passed away, his wife Margie donated the Dogwood Tree found at the Veteran's Cemetery in his honor.

Mr. Wheeler continued with a demonstration of his "brown bess" musket. This weapon is the longest serving firearm in the British Army. It has a flint lock which creates a spark and ignites the powder. (for the parade the musket is not loaded). Mr. Wheeler passed around the small ¾" caliber iron ball the musket shoots. Mr. Wild asked what type of range for shooting. Mr. Wheeler replied about 25 yards from your target, 50 yards to hit a barn door, 100 yards away to hit the barn. Discussion continued on how soliders would reload the muskets. Mr. Wheeler also carried a French cartridge box which contained an inside pouch with flints and spare musket parts.

Mr. Valenti asked if Mr. Wheeler was from this area. He was born in Freehold and lived in Marlboro, then North Jersey. He returned to Monmouth County and has lived in Colts Neck for the past 47 years. He recalls Cedar Drive being a gravel roadway, with Charlie Barth being the only policeman in town. He has also been a member for the Colts Neck Fire Department for the past 20 years.

All commented how Mr. Wheeler is a great historian to Colts Neck and how much the committee appreciated his attendance.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Valenti asked Mr. Engel if he had any Township Committee news to add. He did not, noting the September 11 ceremony is this Sunday at 12:30pm. He added the Township is recovering from the Hurricane with the priority being pick up.

Ms. Laufer had no Senior Citizen news to report.

Ms. Amend added in 1964 the 1st Recreation Committee donated the material for uniforms for the Joshua Huddy Fife and Drums. Her newspaper also has many photographs from the events Mr. Wheeler shared.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary