

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – February 2, 2011**

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

Excused Absence: Leonor Lesta

Township Liaison: 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 January 5, 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Old Business

Recreation Budget - Mr. Hennessy distributed copies of the Recreation budget and Park budget for discussion. He noted the Special Events category had decreased because of the Community Band not being financially supported by the Township. Mr. Wild asked what does "Contributions and Donations" mean. Mr. Hennessy explained monies go towards the Colts Neck Sports Foundation and Pop Warner. Ms. Burke asked if the Township plans on having July 4th fireworks. Mr. Hennessy stated the funding for the fireworks has not been included in this year's Recreation budget. Mr. Valenti asked who determines this, being if we are saving a substantial amount of money from the Recreation budget it should be noted. Mr. Engel added the Township is still discussing fireworks, because the Town is not running the fireworks local businesses would be able to fund a firework display. It was also added that because the Colts Neck Fair dates have moved from August to July 1 – 3, the Fair Committee plans to include a fireworks display on July 3. Mr. McNally asked if the fair would be the same size. Mr. Maida stated the Fair Committee will be trying to return to a "country fair" atmosphere. The same size with more food vendors, games, not rides. The budget document distributed today does include \$10,000 for fireworks that will be revised after Mr. Hennessy meets again with Mr. Bowden. Other highlights Mr. Hennessy discussed, monies were moved within programs and day camp counselors will not be receiving pay increase or overtime this summer. And 2010 ended with a \$22,000 over budget for Recreation. Mr. Hennessy will be pursuing on line registration and payments via credit cards for day camp trips. This method would alleviate staff handling money and allow more time to be spent on other responsibilities. He is also planning on setting up the day camp trips well in advance in hopes that they can be booked, along with pre-enrollment payment with a credit card.

Parks Budget – Mr. Hennessy is working with Mr. Bowden with cost cutting measures. He hopes the Sports Foundation assists with expenses. Seasonal staff remains in the budget; this is for summer help to assist Public Works in the summer months. Mr. Maida asked if this staff works for Mr. Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy replied they work for him under the direction of Mr. Thompson, Director, Department of Public Works.

Capital Projects - Parks

The committee discussed the expansion of parking at Laird Road. Mr. Hennessy stated parking near fields 3 and 4 is the current plan. Trees would need to be removed and old telephone poles would be used to frame the paved parking area. Fencing would also be included with a gate like mechanism similar to Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Engel asked Mr. Hennessy to include him and Ms. McGowen, Township Landscape Architect to view the proposed site. Mr. Piotrowski asked if there was a sketch of the plans. Mr. Hennessy said not currently, but one would be provide for the March meeting. Also included in the plan is to reverse the entrance/exit of the dugouts on field # 1.

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Plans for Laird Road include a snack shed/pavilion type building. Mr. Engel suggested Mr. Hennessy apply for a Grant which would match 50% of the cost for this project. Ms. Burke asked if barbecuing would be available at the new Pavillion. Mr. Hennessy stated yes. We would then be able to charge a fee for using the Laird Road Pavilion as we do now for Bucks Mill.

Conover Road lower baseball field renovation, a permanent comfort station at Bucks Mill, a Township wide trail system and tennis court replacement at Conover Road were all briefly discussed as part of Capital Improvement projects. Mr. Hennessy commented at Township wide trail system is one accomplishment he plans to work on as Director. Mr. Wild asked if the committee could experience revenue brought in by Recreation. Mr. Hennessy stated the revenue goes directly into the Township General Fund.

Community Center – Mr. Hennessy plans to purchase and install several ceiling fans in the building to decrease heating costs by circulating the air and to cool the building in the summer months.

Bucks Mill Park – A well is included in Capital projects. Mr. Hennessy received interest for a donation to provide irrigation on the Polo field. He commented the well would have to be dug deep enough to provide irrigation for other areas of Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Maida added the driveway into Bucks Mill Park needs to be graded and new stone added. Mr. Engel asked how much of the Parks budget is for “maintenance”. Basically \$15,000, Mr. Hennessy stated.

Ms. Burke asked if there are plans to maintain the Blind Garden. Mr. Engel commented the Eagle Scout who created the garden would maintain it. Mr. Hennessy stated it was Mr. Lelesi’s son who created the garden from Troop 290. Mr. Rehm added it’s not a once a week job to maintain the garden. Mr. Hennessy stated Freehold High School worked on the Library Garden but did not have the time for the Blind Garden. Mr. Wild asked who determines the Eagle Projects. Mr. Hennessy replied, he meets with the candidate to determine the needs for the Township. The next project is scheduled for Five Point Park with the Sports Foundation is contributing materials for the shed which will house the Kifco Unit.

Park Facility Group Mr. Engel stated members who attend the meetings are still gathering ideas and information. Currently finding a place for Pop Warner to play is an item. Ms. Burke asked if Mr. Engel would share the plan for Pop Warner, will they be playing at Dorbrook again. Mr. Hennessy stated yes, that is the plan.

User Fees Mr. Hennessy will be implementing fees for use of all baseball and soccer fields. \$20/game, \$30/double header baseball fees. He will also be charging fees for practices, while this is not a big money producer due to the fact the Sports Foundation occupies 100% of the fields. Mr. McNally asked how will the money be collected. Mr. Hennessy stated he is in the “process of enforcing” field fees, by revising all Recreation program fees that appear in the Township Ordinance Book. Once the Township reviews and approves the proposed fees, a resolution is created and the Fee Ordinance will be published. In the interim, he will collect all payments prior to the requestor’s use date. Mr. Valenti asked how it is determined Colts Neck vs. non Colts Neck teams. Mr. Hennessy stated that in the past teams with a certain percentage of Colts Neck residents on the team would be deemed Colts Neck teams. It became difficult to enforce these teams. Mr. Hennessy will also propose to the Township Committee rental fees for use of the Community Center.

Training – Mr. Hennessy reminded the Committee he will be attending a class at Rutgers University on February 24, related to Baseball field construction and maintenance.

New Business

Stewards of the Park & New ADA Trail Rules “Power Driven Mobility Devices” Mr. Hennessy wanted to make the committee aware of people using scooters, golf carts etc. in Parks due to their being handicapped. He cannot ask a person if they have a disability, most would have a handicapped sticker to identify the mobility use. Mr. Valenti suggested the Committee focus to make one park ADA compliant in Colts Neck.

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Earth Day April 22 – Mr. Hennessy stated the Township will celebrate the event on Saturday and Sunday. He will require litter control for groups who use the fields/parks to clean up and not leave any trash after their event.

Permits – Community Center/Bucks Mill Park - Mr. Hennessy reviewed the following events, Colts Neck Country Fair – July 1 – July, Polo dates for both groups, American Cancer Society Relay for Life Kickoff on February 10, Eagle Scout Court of Honor March 6, Cedar Drive 7th Grade Dance June 3, Arts and Craft Fair October 1 and 2, Pop Warner Field - Maverick Lacrosse March 12 – June 18 (will be charged to use the field), Mr. Hennessy also stated he will be opening Five Point for the Spring season.

Senior Citizen Club - Ms. Laufer stated membership is 262. Even with today's bad weather and schools being delayed 80 members attended the meeting at the Primary School. Due to the Township budget, the Club will be receiving no more funding for events.

Township Liaison – Mr. Engel stated the budget is on everyone's mind. The past two years budget planning was done by line items. Now the theme is "thinking out of the box" and look to a three year financial/budget plan. He reflected from this meeting "maintenance" was mentioned throughout the evening, which is a big problem in this town. With any type of growth as mentioned tonight, with the new parking areas, snack sheds etc. comes more maintenance. He plans to offer to the residents in the Fall a referendum to keep the Township from falling part. Currently, during the next Township Committee meeting the Committee will vote to layoff four Public Works employees to cut costs. And if the Township cannot get a handle on the budget there maybe more layoffs in 2012 and 2013.

It's great we are looking at different ways to generate revenue such as charging fees and fines. Mr. Valenti asked about the revenue side of the budget. Mr. Engel said that is not looking good, as the Township does not have a lot of ratables, and with many residents protesting their tax increases through re-evaluations those tax dollars have not been collected for the year. Again, Mr. Engel reinforced the importance of taking cost saving measures now and have a three year financial plan in place. Mr. Mancino suggested the Township sit down with the business community for ideas. Mr. Engel stated he has discussed the situation with Mr. Dalakian.

With no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary