

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2019

Attendance: Paul Wild, John Cantalupo (arrived at 7:15 pm), Sue Fitzpatrick, Phil Maida, Ronnie Sullivan, John Maguire

Absent: Judy Laufer, Brian McNally, Frank Baker, Heather Tormey, Joe Mancino

Meeting called to order by Mr. Hennessy at 7:00 pm

Sunshine Statement

Approval of May 20th meeting minutes

Also, present, Mr. Chris Montalvo, President of the Colts Neck Sports Foundation

Township Liaison report – The Township Committee stated the parade was a great success. Thank you all for the work on the parade. Thoughts for next year – have residents along the route decorate their homes or have a tailgate area with decorated cars. Decrease the ceremony to less than 40 minutes.

Movie in the Park this past Friday, it was a cool night, the attendance could have been better. We will continue these types of events for the residents. Committeeman Bartolomeo encouraged the committee to use the Township's Report a Concern on line tool. He emphasized it's your duty to report things in town. Issues are documented and tracked and will be followed up. Create a fake email account if you want to remain anonymous to report a complaint.

The Township dump day was a success. Senior pick up for 2018 took 11 days with overtime. This year there were 125 pickups and it was completed in 2 days. It shows with efficiency; how quickly these jobs are completed with contractors.

Memorial Day and Ceremony

Mr. Cantalupo added comments regarding the parade. There were 27 participants in the bicycle contest. There were 6 in 2018. Mr. Maida asked how the parents heard about the contest. All stated from the flyer at the schools. He did not post posters in the stores this year. Mr. Wild commented next year to add the location for the contest and to wear a helmet. It was discussed to have numbers to connect the bikes and the child's names next year. Maybe a table to register the children. Ms. Sullivan suggested similar to the Trail Rider events; children could wear a number on their arm in association with their bikes. Committeeman Bartolomeo suggested moving the bicycle contest in the parking lot at Town Hall outside of the entrance to the building department. Mr. Cantalupo added; we may decrease having all 3 churches speak during the ceremony. He commented; we need to reach out to the next generation to show them how important Memorial Day is.

We lost the attention of kids as the firetrucks were closed off. All agreed to have a tent for shade during the ceremony. He also suggested to serve refreshments during the ceremony, maybe a coloring section for kids, and/or have the beverages outside. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated whatever we need to do for the parade next year it will get done. Money is not an issue.

It was noted the CNSF had a great turn out. Mr. Cantalupo thanked all the volunteers. There were 180 ice cream cones distributed from the truck at the start of the parade to CNSF uniformed players. Mr. Maguire suggested next year to post "lawn signs" about the parade around town. Ms. Sullivan reported there were 13 horses/riders and observed there seemed to be more parade participants than spectators. Ms. Fitzpatrick added the CNBA sent mailers to all residents with the parade information.

Long term planning

Chairman Cantalupo explained this committee will turn over a plan for the parks to the Township Committee in October, including capital budget. This preliminary document will be something the committee to work with into 2020. We will work on the document at our July meeting and have a plan completed for our September meeting. Mr. Hennessy reviewed the November 2018 meeting minutes, as that meeting was the last time Long Term Planning was discussed. He also provides his assessment of the Township Parks.

Big Brook Preserve (Sue Fitzpatrick)

Ms. Fitzpatrick recently visited the Preserve and noted the speeding cars on Hillsdale Road. A suggestion was made to have the speed limit decreased. Mr. Hennessy shared the map of the trails of Big Brook. A suggestion was made to build a bridge to connect Big Brook to Schlesinger Preserve. The bridge possibly would need to be 80' across and high above the water.

Five Point

There are 8 portable lights, Ms. Fitzpatrick noted there are 4 more total of 12 which will be used at the July 3 event.

Mr. Montalvo noted the CNSF spot for a Pole/ Sports building would be the DeAngelis property. With the new field, potentially trail links, snack shed and storage for equipment, indoor bathrooms etc.

Chairman Cantalupo steps are needed for the slope walk way down onto the new field. He was told by Mayor Orgo there is a lot of lumber in town for the project.

Mr. Montalvo would like to keep the grass baseball field. Due to the central location, it would be convenient for games played with other towns.

Laird Road (Joe Mancino)

Mr. Hennessy shared the map of the park. There is a lot of land attached to the park. Trails would need to be elevated over the marsh land, possibility for capital funding. Mr. Montalvo noted there has been some improvements to the park, noting the water for spraying at the back fields.

Obre Road (Heather Tormey)

The Preserve should remain as is, boy scouts use it for their overnight camp outs.

Township Park First Aid side (Mr. Maida)

Mr. Maida commented the area is well kept.

Township Park Town Hall side (Mr. Baker)

Mr. Maida noted the Blind Garden needs to be removed. Mr. Hennessy stated he contacted Monmouth County Parks to identify a possible interested by them. He will follow up and have an answer before our next meeting.

Freer Nature Preserve (Mr. Maguire)

This area is a high and low lands. Mr. Rehm will be donating 30 Hemlocks to be planted here. Mr. Maguire suggested the fencing needs to be consistent along the cliff area. It is very steep, and the trail could be widened too.

Schlesinger Preserve (Mr. McNally)

Mr. Hennessy showed on the map how a trail could connect the Preserve to Big Brook. It would need to be in part, an elevated walkway over part of the wet trail. Chairman Cantalupo asked if Ms. Sullivan would be able to ride horses here. She replied, it's too wet, although she does walk her dog. Plus, the parking is very limited and to have trucks with horse trailers park there would not be enough space.

Farmland Preservation (land by CNHS)

Maps were reviewed, and Mr. Hennessy shared the possibility of connecting a trail with existing Matthews Road to connect to Five Point, CNHS and Monmouth County Parks.

Bucks Mill Park and Cedar Drive (Ms. Sullivan)

The uphill trails through Cedar Drive need to be linked. "Gallop Hill" needs fill to stabilize the washing out at the bottom. Ms. Sullivan expressed there are too many millings throughout the park. Ms. Sullivan reported piping debris exists mixed with dirt and gravel etc. Formalizing trails would be wonderful for horseback riding too. Ms. Sullivan will be adding information to the Kiosk at Bucks Mill. The old polo field needs to be cleaned up. Committeeman Bartolomeo commented it will be cleaned up by Fall. There was discussion to have a benefit Polo match, however the field is not in shape. The reason the fill delivered on the field was not clean and there is a lot of gravel etc. There is a Township Committee initiative to pave the driveway into Bucks Mill Park up to the Community Center. Committeeman Bartolomeo supports the return of Polo and suggested a committee be formed to present the return of Polo to the Township Committee. Ms. Fitzpatrick also supports Polo. Mr. Cantalupo asked if there is a conflict with practice fields and the Polo field. He suggested that Mr. Montalvo come to our next meeting with a representative from each sport.

It was recently discovered the Cedar Dr. tennis courts are fully within the Board of Education property and not the Township.

Mr. Cantalupo is suggesting the floor of the Community Center be pvc coated and Velcro and pads added along the walls. This would increase the safety for children practicing sports in the building.

Next Steps:

Chairman Cantalupo suggested we discuss "next steps" as a committee.

Miscellaneous

What is the timeline for the Field House at Five Point? Mr. Montalvo has not been told when to start raising funds.

Mr. Wild will continue to recommend Pickle ball preferably Laird Road.

Chairman Cantalupo adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Our next meeting will be July 15 at 7:00 pm.