COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

1. Chairman Cantalupo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Chairman Cantalupo asked everyone to join in saluting the flag.

3. Secretary, Barbara Byrne, read the following Sunshine Statement: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by notifying the Asbury Park Press and the Colts Neck Journal on December 29, 2023, stating that a meeting of the Recreation Committee would be held on March 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., 3 Veterans Way, Colts Neck, NJ 07722, Town Hall. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township Bulletin Board, and a copy is on file in the office of the Recreation Committee.

   Present: Brian McNally, Frank Sikorskas, Jacki Kronstedt, Paul Wild, Ronnie Sullivan, Kevin O'Conner, Chairman John Cantalupo, Chris Montalvo.

   Also Present: Alan Ryan, Colts Neck Fire Department

   Absent: John Killick, Michael Holden, John Maguire

4. Approval of January 17, 2023, meeting minutes
   Chairman Cantalupo called for comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. On a motion by Ms. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. McNally the minutes were approved.

5. Liaison Report – Mayor Fitzpatrick stated the Township received a Temporary Occupancy for the new building. The Police Department has received their approved accreditation. Congratulations to the Chief and Department. At the March 29 regular Township Committee meeting Captain Edward Callahan of Naval Weapons Station Earle, who will be retiring on April 21, will receive a Proclamation from the Township. The Township Committee is invited to Earle for his retirement ceremony on April 21. He has been very helpful in Affordable Housing and water issues for the Township. He will be missed. Mr. Sikorskas asked if the Mayor had met his replacement, she replied not yet. There was nothing new on Affordable Housing, pending DEP investigations. Plus the egress related to Route 537. The Township has purchased the 29-acre Maida property which will expand Five Point Park. Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Montalvo, President of the Sports Foundation for the generous donation of funds to refurbish the fields at Laird Road. He replied it was their pleasure to provide the funding.

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6. Old Business

Stewards of the Park – Ms. Sullivan noted the new wide trails at Bucks Mill Park are great. She also is pleased with the maintenance of the trails, specifically how branches, fallen trees etc. have been removed quickly. Mr. Hennessy added the there is a new ridge trail at the headwaters of ponds at Bucks Mill Park. Chairman Cantalupo commented on trails at Schlesinger and Big Brook are well maintained. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated how with nice weather and little snow, the Public Works Department is doing other projects. Chairman Cantalupo commented he is impressed with new members of the Department of Public Works staff.

7. New Business

a. Memorial Day Parade – Chairman Cantalupo stated the ceremony will return to the gravesite. Mr. Ryan suggested having a cooler with water on site at the gravesite. Mr. Montalvo will coordinate the ice cream vendor to be at the beginning of the parade at Town Hall and at the end of the parade at the Firehouse. Mayor Fitzpatrick has not picked a Grand Marshall yet. Mr. Hennessy would like to enhance the Line of March to include Tom Sullivan and his donkey. And the return of Strut your Mutt, dogs dressed in costume, prizes will also be awarded. Chairman Cantalupo suggested Jeeps decorated i.e., most patriotic etc. Mr. Sikorskas added there are many Jeep Clubs in town. Mr. Hennessy noted the owner of Buhler Auto Dealer is a resident of Colts Neck. Mr. Montalvo suggested sending a notice now about the parade. Ms. Sullivan shared the town of Lavallette has published their events for the year. Ms. Kronstedt suggested having a QR code for registration for the contests. The most patriotic house on the parade route will continue. Mr. Montalvo suggested having water “mister” instead of water bottles for attendees. This would eliminate dropped bottles along the parade route from the grave site to the Firehouse. Mr. Ryan will work closely with Mr. Hennessy on parade issues. Chairman Cantalupo asked if the CNFD needs anything from the Recreation Committee please let us know. Mr. Montalvo commented on keeping cars together in the Line of March, away from the children. The shuttle bus will return to drop spectators between the Town Hall and the Fire House. Suggestion was made to have a banner made for the Bicycle Contest and shuttle bus. The Bicycle Contest would continue to use the original flyer for advertising.

b. Senior Exercise Program – Mr. Hennessy shared there is a Tuesday morning exercise class for Seniors.

c. Pickleball at Community Center – Mr. Wild shared 3-4 different groups have been using the building for games. The building has one court and works when playing with 4-6 in a group. He asked when will Laird Road tennis/pickleball courts be completed. Mr. Hennessy replied this Fall. Mr. Montalvo stated Mr. Bader was walking around the area to identify tree removal in preparation for two new tennis courts. Mr. Hennessy hopes the new basketball and tennis courts at Cedar Drive Middle School will be available to summer campers. Mr. Sikorskas suggested building courts in the parking lot of the First Aid Building after the police move to their new headquarters.

d. Opening Day Baseball/Softball – Mr. Montalvo stated April 2 as opening Day. He hopes the Township Committee will be in attendance.

e. Easter Egg Hunt/Brunch scheduled March 25 at 9:30 am – Mr. Hennessy shared the flyer.

f. Laird Road Tennis Courts/ Pickleball Courts – discussed previously.

g. Update Five Point Park – Chairman Cantalupo stated the Township will be receiving a Grant from Monmouth County. Monmouth County Commissioner and others will be walking the property soon. There will also be new “Trailer Executive” bathrooms.

h. Earth Day – Mr. Hennessy explained everyone has their list of groups with contact information. Chairman Cantalupo asked why the back of Schlesinger is still “mushy.” Mr. Hennessy replied they used a pipe to make it less mushy. Chairman Cantalupo asked if rocks could be added to the path over pipe Mr. Hennessy committed to having it done.

i. Trail Enhancements – previously discussed.

j. Summer Camp – Registration began today with fifty-seven campers signed up. This number is more campers than our first day last year.

k. Social Media Discussion – Mr. Hennessy asked Mr. Kronstedt what we should be using. She replied not many people look on websites. Mr. Hennessy would like a separate button on the Township website for Recreation. Facebook is an older version of sharing information. Mr. Montalvo suggested Instagram would be good, someone would need to post 3-4 times per week. It could turn into a full time or part time job to manage social media. New trails could be shared, photos, parade notifications etc. Chairman Cantalupo suggested many Towns do not have social media sights, he suggested Mr. Hennessy start by

discussing the Township Social Media policy with Administrator Capristo. Ms. Sullivan suggested using “Constant Contact” for texting sign up notifications etc.

l. Christmas Decorating of Homes Contest – Item will be held over to April meeting.

8. Adjournment

As there was no further business, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion by Mr. O’Conner, seconded by Mr. McNally, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sincerely,

Barbara Byrne
Secretary