Meeting called to order by Chairman Cantalupo at 7:00 pm

Roll Call by Ms. Byrne indicated the following:

Present: Chairman John Cantalupo, Ronnie Sullivan, Paul Wild, Brian McNally, Jacki Kronstedt, Chris Montalvo.

Township Liaison Present – Mayor Fitzpatrick

Also Present: Thom Hennessy, Director of Recreation and Parks and Barbara Byrne, Secretary

Absent: John Killick, John Maguire, Frank Sikorskas, Michael Holden, Kevin O'Connor

Ms. Byrne read the Sunshine statement.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022

Mayor Fitzpatrick performed a swearing in of Paul Wild to the Recreation Committee.

Liaison Report

Mayor Fitzpatrick stated she was very happy to be at the meeting. She is very interested in events for the Town. She asked a 2023 Event Calendar be added to the Township website (ahead of time for all events) to remind residents of all upcoming events. She added a Cultural Committee is being formed as an advisory group to this committee. Members include Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, A.J. Garito and Mary Ellen Griffin. Mayor Fitzpatrick shared her ideas for 2023, in part, to open up the Montrose School for events to remind residents of the history in town. Have Cedar Drive Middle School students attend a class at the school, tying into the 60th anniversary of the schoolhouse. Maybe even have weddings take place at the Montrose School. She continued with returning the Memorial Day Ceremony back to the gravesite, then going to the Firehouse on Conover Road for refreshments. Promoting July 3rd Fireworks, sponsored by the CNBA. Resident Linda Stagliano suggested enhancing Fall activities in town by adding a carved pumpkin contest, lighting up the pumpkins along Town Hall and awarding prizes. Mayor Fitzpatrick concluded with the great Christmas Tree Lighting event.

Mr. McNally asked how many people get married in by the Mayor. Mayor Fitzgerald was told by previous Mayor Bartolomeo he performed ten weddings last year.

Chairman Cantalupo suggested relocating the Montrose School near Town Hall. The area of the ponds and trees would be a nice location.

Old Business

Stewards of the Park

Chairman Cantalupo asked if anyone had updates on their park. Mr. McNally noted since the construction of the new building at Town Hall, he noticed trash and the area was not looking great. He also noted a missing garbage receptacle near of one of the trials. Mr. Hennessy will investigate.

Ms. Sullivan noted she is a volunteer with Monmouth County Parks, where a park employee leads a cleanup (i.e. chainsaw) in an area and volunteers assist picking up debris. Perhaps the Township can start a similar program and DPW would lead the project with volunteers assisting.

Mr. Hennessy noted it has been working well with the Trail Riders cleaning up Bucks Mill.

Mr. Cantalupo suggested to use “report a concern” if they have concerns in the parks. Ms. Sullivan asked if the Lions Club still does clean ups. Mr. Hennessy stated yes, they also get paid from Clean Communities.

Mr. Wild noted he has found very little trash at Big Brook.

Frosty’s/Santa Workshop update and critique

Mr. Hennessy stated 2022 was the best reception from the PTO ever! The event was extremely successful with 200 crafts provided by Recreation. Fifty vendors were in attendance for parents to shop for gifts. Children picked up their crafts at the end of their shopping.

Chairman Cantalupo noted as every year, the Christmas Tree Lighting is too long. However, it is a wonderful event.

New Business

2023 Recreation Committee Meeting Dates

A brief discussion resulted in cancelling our February, July and August meetings. If the Township assigns a task to this committee, we will resume meetings.

Christmas decoration contest discussion

Mr. Hennessy asked Mayor Fitzpatrick about the Christmas house decorating contest, is it fair for a family to participate if they hired a company to decorate and other families did the decorating as a family, without a company.

Mayor Fitzpatrick had to leave the meeting for another obligation at 7:15 pm, discussion would continue with this topic at our next Recreation Committee meetings.

Ms. Sullivan noted in Little Silver families register with a fee to participate in the House decorating contest. Families decorated their own homes. Maps were distributed to those who would like to drive through the town and view the decorated homes.

Senior Club Report

Mr. Hennessy shared Recreation is hosting Senior Fitness on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Eighty Seniors attended the January 5 meeting/luncheon.

Misc. Discussion

Ms. Kronstedt noted Mayor Fitzpatrick mentioning social media. It is important to have your own identity with your own website. Social Media would help. Cancellation notices etc. There are approximately 9,000 people in Colts Neck, many probably don't go onto the Township website.

Mr. Montalvo added the Sports Foundation website does advertise Summer Camp and other Recreation programs.

Mr. Hennessy shared the possibility of re-creating our trifold brochure which was mailed to every household.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Our next meeting will be on March 20, 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Barbara Byrne
Secretary