COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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1. Mayor Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that today is flag day and Colts Neck is proud to fly our flag affectionately called "Old Glory", a universal symbol of freedom, flown all over the world, carried into battle, draped over the coffins of our fallen heroes, lowered to honor our dead. Mayor Fitzpatrick then asked everyone to join her and salute the flag.

3. Administrator, Kathleen Capristo, read the following Sunshine Statement: "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by noticing the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times on January 9, 2023, stating that a regular meeting of the Township Committee would be held on June 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., 1 Veterans Way, Colts Neck, NJ 07722, Town Hall. A copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk."

4. Roll call by Municipal Clerk, Trina Lindsey indicated the following:

Present:	Mayor Sue Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Frank Rizzuto, Committeewoman Tara Torchia Buss, Committeeman Michael Viola, and Committeeman J.P. Bartolomeo
Also Present:	Trina Lindsey, Municipal Clerk and Meghan Bennett, Township Counsel
Absent:	Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator

5. **Oath of office:**

   a. Frank C. Rizzuto, Probationary Firefighter, Colts Neck Fire Department

Frank C. Rizzuto was sworn in as a Probationary Firefighter by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto welcomed the members of the fire department that were present for the swearing in and thanked them for showing their support. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that any member of the audience who is interested in volunteering for the fire department can speak with any current member about the details and requirements.

   b. Steven Ajami, Probationary Firefighter, Colts Neck Fire Department

Mr. Steven Ajami was sworn in as a Probationary Firefighter by Committeeman Viola. Committeeman Viola thanked Mr. Ajami, Mr. Rizzuto and all of the members of the Fire Department for their service.

6. **Proclamation:**

   a. Proclamation of Recognition – Dylan Eschinger

Committeeman Bartolomeo read the proclamation and presented it to Dylan Eschinger for earning the Eagle Scout Award.

   b. Proclamation honoring Edward Brock

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Edward Brock who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Mr. Brock said a few words thanking his family and friends in Colts Neck for their support over the years. Mr. Brock stated that he has been a resident of Colts Neck for his entire life. Ed Callahan, retired Captain of Naval Weapons Station Earle, presented Mr. Brock with a naval hat and a coin.

7. **Discussion:**

   a. Laird Road Tennis/Pickleball courts Ad Hoc Committee

Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she would like to form an Ad Hoc Committee for this project as has been done in the past for projects such as this. The Governing Body agreed. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she will reach out to those who are selected to serve on the ad hoc committee.

8. **Approval of minutes:**

   a. June 14, 2023 – Regular meeting

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve the minutes. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a majority roll call vote, the minutes were approved.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto				X	
Torchia Buss	S	X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

9. **Old business:**

   a. Ordinance 2023-12: Bond ordinance providing for the acquisition and the payment of a portion of the purchase price of real property (a conservation easement over and across property being designated as Block 50, Lots 4.01, 17 and 23 on the official tax map of the herein defined township) by and in Colts Neck Township, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey; appropriating $832,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of $792,380 bonds or notes of the township to finance part of the cost thereof

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the ordinance by title for second reading/public hearing. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to open the public hearing. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was opened. As there were no comments or questions from the public, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to close the public hearing. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss	S	X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

10. New business:

a. Ordinance 2023-15: Ordinance amending section 24 "Schedule II: No parking certain hours" of Chapter 222, "Vehicles and Traffic" of the code of Colts Neck Township, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey

Mayor Fitzpatrick read the ordinance by title for first reading/introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Attorney Bennett stated that she has been in touch with the residents of Thunder Lane who have unanimously requested for Thunder Lane to be included in the no parking revisions. Attorney Bennett stated that there is one resident from Thunder Lane present at the meeting and the Governing Body could suspend the rules to allow for this resident to comment. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to suspend the public comment rules. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Viola, and a unanimous voice vote, the public comment rules were suspended.

Bill Aubrey, resident, stated that he is in attendance to represent all four residents who reside on Thunder Lane. Mr. Aubrey commented that all four residents wish to have the no parking restrictions include for Thunder Lane as well as they have experienced the on-going issues with the visitors of Big Brook Nature Preserve.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to go back to regular session. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous voice vote, the Governing Body returned to regular session. The Governing Body and Attorney Bennett agreed to include Thunder Lane on to the parking restrictions outlined in this ordinance. Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was approved for introduction. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the public hearing is scheduled for July 19, 2023.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

b. Resolution 2023-112: Resolution requesting placement of a referendum on the official ballot for the next General Election on November 7, 2023, authorizing the increase of the annual levy for open space, farmland and historic preservation within Colts Neck Township

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto commented that the way Colts Neck prevents over population of the town is through this referendum. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated to the residents that a few dollars on resident's tax bills goes a long way in keeping the rural aspect of this town. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the approximate increase is $51.34 for a house with an assessed value of approximately $1,000,000. Committeeman Viola stated that the township can only give an estimate at this time because the County has not established the tax rates as of yet. Committeeman Viola stated that the increase will be in the range of $51 give or take a few dollars. Committeeman Viola stated that the Governing Body appreciates the public's support and consideration. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	S	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

c. Resolution 2023-113: Approving and authorizing the execution of a Shared Services Agreement between Colts Neck Township and the Colts Neck Township Schools Board of Education (Special Law Enforcement Officers, III, SLEO III)

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	M	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	S	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

d. Resolution 2023-114: Approving and authorizing the execution of a Shared Services Agreement between Colts Neck Township and the Freehold Regional High School District Board of Education (Special Law Enforcement Officers III, SLEO III)

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	M	X			
Torchia Buss	S	X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

e. Resolution 2023-115: Approving insertion of Special Item of Revenue – Alcohol and Drug Abuse grant

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Committeewoman Buss and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss	S	X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

f. Resolution 2023-116: Resolution authorizing six change orders to the contract awarded to Hall Building Corporation for the construction of the new municipal building located in Colts Neck Township

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that he spoke with Administrator Capristo and these change orders have been in the works for some time. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the project is still on budget. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto		X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	S	X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

g. Resolution 2023-117: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the MA-2024-Improvements to Heyers Mill Road - 00353

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Mayor Fitzpatrick commented that this resolution approves the township applying for a grant for the paving of Heyers Mills Road from Conover Road to Heritage Lane. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Bartolomeo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	S	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	M	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

h. Resolution 2023-118: Confirming appointment to the Historic Preservation Committee

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for comments. Hearing none, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Committeeman Viola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	S	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

i. Consent Agenda

a. Resolution 2023-119: Approving renewal of liquor license for the 2023/2024 license year

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to approve. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution on the consent agenda were adopted.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	M	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola		X			
Bartolomeo	S	X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

j. Approval of Vouchers:

Committeeman Viola stated that he reviewed all of the vouchers and found all to be in order. Committeeman Viola stated that he made a motion to approve the bills list.

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a second to Committeeman Viola's motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous roll call vote, the bills list was approved.

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with the Colts Neck Fire Department.

Committeewoman Buss recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with the shared municipal court with Holmdel Township.

Committeeman Viola recuses from any bills/vouchers in connection with Best Horticultural and Joleen Landscaping.

RECORD OF VOTE					
	M S	Yes	No	NV	Ab
Mayor Fitzpatrick		X			
Deputy Mayor Rizzuto	S	X			
Torchia Buss		X			
Viola	M	X			
Bartolomeo		X			
M - Moved S - Seconded X - indicates vote NV - Not Voting Ab - Absent					

k. Administrator's report:
None

1. Township Committee reports:

Committeeman Viola

- Committeeman Viola stated that the tax rates have yet to be established by the County.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the 2022 annual audit was submitted and will be reviewed and adopted at the July 19, 2023, meeting.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Township's Recreation Director, Thom Hennessy has announced his retirement at the end of the year. Committeeman Viola stated that the Township will begin recruitment efforts and is looking to hire someone with an undergraduate or graduate's degree in Recreation preferred.
- Committeeman Viola stated that no decision has been received from the court in regard to Affordable Housing.
- Committeeman Viola stated that the Executive Fire Council meeting was postponed until tomorrow night, and he will report on that at the next meeting.

Committeeman Bartolomeo

- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that the Department of Public Works yard is open on Saturdays for recycling and brush drop off and advised residents to check the township's website for the hours. Committeeman Bartolomeo commented that the Department of Public Works is doing a great job with continuing to clean out the township's right of ways and trails.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo congratulated all of the seniors who graduated from Freehold Regional High School included his son and Deputy Mayor Rizzuto's son. Committeeman Bartolomeo also congratulated the 8th grade graduates of the Colts Neck School.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that he will unfortunately be unable to attend the Fireworks display hosted by the Colts Neck Business Association at Bucks Mill Park on July 3, 2023.
- Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that he attended a great event in Union Beach hosted by Tunnel to Towers. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that Colts Neck's long time resident, Colonel Jim Sfayer orchestrated the project, which was a smart home that was provided for Staff Sergeant Ben Webb who served in three tours and is a remarkable selfless individual.

Committeewoman Buss

- Committeewoman Buss reported that the Colts Neck Business Association will host the fireworks display on July 3, 2023, at Bucks Mill Park from 6pm – 10pm.
- Committeewoman Buss stated that National Night Out hosted by the Colts Neck Prevention Alliance is scheduled for August 1, 2023, at Bucks Mill Park. Committeewoman Buss provided handouts for the event.
- Committeewoman Buss reported that the Friends of the Library are accepting book donations in good condition during open hours in the lower level of the Colts Neck Library foyer. Committeewoman Buss stated that library hours are Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday from 1:00pm – 9:00pm, Friday 1:00pm – 5:00pm, and Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm. Closed on July 4, 2023. Committeewoman Buss stated that the Friends of the Library will have a book sale on September 30, 2023, and October 1, 2023, from 10:00am – 4:00pm.
    - ACCEPTABLE:
    - Books in good condition and better
    - Books that you would read in bed
    - All kinds of FICTION
    - MOST Non-Fiction categories; please note Unacceptable categories below
    - Travel Guides Dated 2018 and after

- CD Audiobooks and viewable DVDs in good condition
- UNACCEPTABLE:
- No Books in poor, torn, or damaged condition
- No Books with mildew, mold, water, or other stains
- No Books with wrinkled, or marked or highlighted pages
- No Books that you would NOT read in bed or give to family
- No VERY old books with BROWNED or black spotted edges on pages
- NO Encyclopedias, Textbooks, Reference, Reader's Digest
- No Dated Non-Fiction 2018 or prior
- No VHS tapes or audio books on cassettes

Deputy Mayor Rizzuto

- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that he met with the First Aid Squad to continue discussions of them moving back into their building once the Police Department moves into the new municipal building.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that he met with the Chief of Police as well to discuss their move into the new municipal building. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the Police Department is very close to being able to move into the new building. Deputy Mayor Rizzuto explained that things like electronics and things that are mandated by the State are items that are being finalized for their move.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that the First Aid Squad is launching a recruitment drive in the hopes to attract more volunteers.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto stated that he spoke with Captain Smith of Naval Weapons Station Earle, and he seems genuinely appreciative to be located in a town that supports our troops and their services.
- Deputy Mayor Rizzuto reported that the Halloween event hosted by the Historic Preservation Committee is scheduled to take place at Colts Neck Fire Department #1 on October 21, 2023, with a rain date of October 22, 2023.

Mayor Fitzpatrick:

- Mayor Fitzpatrick reported that she presided over her first wedding as Mayor on June 16, 2023, for a lovely couple. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the ceremony was held outside by the 9/11 memorial garden.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Sounds of Summer Concert held on June 15, 2023, at Town Hall pondside was a very enjoyable evening and a good crowd, the band who performed that evening was The Last Whippoorwill Bluegrass Band. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the concert scheduled for June 22, 2023, with The Hashtags has been rescheduled until July 27, 2023, due to the weather. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the next upcoming concert will be on July 13, 2023, with The Band of the Two Rivers, a brass band. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that a new concert schedule has been posted on the township's website on the Recreation page.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that June is National Trail month and Colts Neck is celebrating our beautiful trails. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that on June 15, 2023, she was joined for a trail walk at Schlesinger by Recreation Director, Thom Hennessy, Monmouth County Naturalist, Rob Fanning, Committeeman Bartolomeo and Donna and Frank Sikorskas. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that tomorrow, June 29, 2023, at 5:30pm all are welcome to join for a trail walk from Cedar Drive to Bucks Mill Park. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Trail Riders Club will be joining tomorrow with their horses.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Five Points Park building met with the architect to offer input on the look and the feel of the building as well as uses for meetings and safety.

- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Green Team Advisory Committee met and discussed about articles of interest for the public as well as publishing articles in local magazines.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the Colts Neck Business Association general meeting at Huddy's Inn. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the new Captain of Naval Weapons Station attended as well.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the graduation ceremony for the Colts Neck Cedar Drive School as well as the graduation for Freehold Regional High School and both were lovely ceremonies.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she attended the kick-off celebration for the 250th anniversary of our independence held at the Hall of Records in Freehold. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the County did a lot of planning to make that a special event. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that she is looking forward to creating an ad hoc committee to incorporate Colts Neck's participation. Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that more information will follow regarding this, and the township will need all facets of the community to take part.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Board of Education has announced that the tennis courts/pickleball courts at Cedar Drive School are now open to the public when school is not in session or whenever the courts are not needed by the Recreation Department's summer camp program.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the Women's Club garage sale that was held last Friday and Saturday was a great success.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick urged residents to attend the Fireworks display on July 3, 20123 at Bucks Mill Park and enjoy great music performed by the Colts Neck Community Band as well as the Back Beat Rock band, bake an apple pie for Grandma Charlotte's apple pie contest, grab a hot dog or hamburger at the Colts Neck Community Church grill, drinks will be provided at the Cub Scouts booth, play miniature golf or get face painting provided by the Colts Neck Community Church, and get some Mr. Softee ice cream. There will also be a special tribute to our country from the Naval Weapons Station color guard and Captain Smith, and of course fireworks.
- Mayor Fitzpatrick urged all residents to sign up for news and notices notifications on the township's website.

11. <u>Public Comment:</u>

Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to open public comment. On a motion by Committeewoman Buss, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was opened.

Adriana Sarapochillo, resident, thanked the Governing Body for their quick action to introduce and adopt the amendment to the ordinance to allow for parking restrictions on Gaitway Drive, Hillsdale Drive and Thunder Lane. Ms. Sarapochillo requested that the township consider placing no parking signs along those roads to inform the public of the changes.

Elaine Mann, resident, thanked Mr. Ed Brock and his family for their continuous contributions for the Colts Neck Fire Department fundraisers. Ms. Mann commented on the six change orders for the new municipal building as well as invoices from the bills list that relate to the new municipal building. Ms. Mann asked if the invoices from the bills list are a part of the change orders. Ms. Mann asked if change order #53 is in relation to soil removal and if so, what is the reason for the soil removal. Ms. Mann asked why Dave Paulson is doing work for the interview room for the new municipal building. Ms. Mann asked if the township has a Certificate of Occupancy for the new municipal building. Ms. Mann stated that it is very unfair to Committeewoman Buss that the Board of Education meeting is the same evening as the Township Committee meeting, and she is unable to attend the Board of Education meeting.

Dave Kostka, resident, commented that he supports the referendum for increasing farmland and open space tax. Mr. Kostka thanked the Township Committee and Jena Cosimo for their work in preserving this town. Mr. Kostka stated that he and his family have lived in Colts Neck for 40 years and he has personally seen many Township Committee members past and present who devote energy in preserving the town. Mr.

Kostka stated that any resident who enjoys living in Colts Neck should support the referendum if they would like the town to stay the way it is.

Michael Ruben, resident, stated that there is a $250 million dollar estimate of pickleball and tennis related injuries this year. Mr. Ruben urged everyone to be careful playing the sport, to stretch and warm up before they play. Mr. Ruben also commented that he strongly in favor of the referendum and to maintain preservation efforts in the town. Mr. Ruben stated that the residents of Colts Neck can all participate in voting on something that enriches our lives daily.

Robert Mahoney, resident, thanked the Township Committee for their efforts in preserving the town. Mr. Mahoney thanked the Township Committee for educating the town residents stating that preservation of land is what makes Colts Neck what it is. Mr. Mahoney also spoke about the fields at our parks and asked if the Governing Body could educate the public on field maintenance and care as well.

Jena Cosimo, resident, thanked the Township Committee again for advancing the referendum for the next General Election. Ms. Cosimo encouraged the public to think about the benefits to Colts Neck this will have when they are at the polls voting.

As there were no comments and/or questions from the public, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to close public comment. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Bartolomeo and a unanimous voice vote, public comment was closed.

12. <u>Discussion of Public Comment:</u>

Committeeman Bartolomeo responded to the comments regarding the referendum stating that this referendum has been placed on the ballot twice in the past and was not passed. Committeeman Bartolomeo stated that there are a number of residents in town who consistently vote the referendum down. Committeeman Bartolomeo urged those who support the referendum to talk to their peers and neighbors and encourage them to vote. Committeeman Bartolomeo also encouraged residents who are opposed to please speak with a Township Committee member to perhaps gain a better understanding to the importance of the referendum.

Committeewoman Buss commented stating that as a single parent where every dollar counts, the reality also is the cost means a lot as well. Committeewoman Buss stated that it is a very small amount. Committeewoman Buss stated that this referendum is to preserve land, not for recreational use, strictly for preservation.

Committeewoman Buss responded to Ms. Mann thanking her for her concern in regard to the Board of Education meetings and stated that the Board of Education meetings are not typically held on the same evening as the Township Committee meetings, however, due to the Board of Education having to move a few meeting dates around their meetings ended up on the same evenings this month.

13. <u>Adjournment</u>:

As there was no further business, Mayor Fitzpatrick called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzuto, seconded by Committeeman Viola and a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Trina Lindsey, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED: 07/19/23