

TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
BOARD OF HEALTH
November 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Jim Schatzle called the Colts Neck Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the following statement: “As Chairman and Presiding Officer of this meeting of the Colts Neck Board of Health, I hereby declare that 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 February 26, 2025 stating that a regular meeting of the Colts Neck Township Board of Health would be held on November 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colts Neck Town Hall Annex, 3 Veterans Way, Colts Neck. A copy is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk. I further order that this public announcement be placed in the minutes of this meeting.”

ROLL CALL INDICATED:

PRESENT: Jim Schatzle, Dr. Boak, Annemarie Delle Donne, Liz Iacono, Jeff Reisinger,
Linda Stagliano, Dr. Mark McCollum
ABSENT: Pam Sokoler
ALSO PRESENT: Tom Frank, Mayor Tara Torchia Buss and Christine Eschert

Meeting Minutes – Jim Schatzle made a motion to approve the October 7, 2025 meeting minutes. This motion was approved by Dr. Boak, seconded by Linda Stagliano and unanimously carried.

Discussion Item – None

Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

New Business – Laird & Company Cultural Center Project

Lisa Laird Dunn, CEO of Laird & Company, and Brian Decina, Executive Vice President at French & Parrello Associates Engineering and Consulting Firm, presented design plans at the meeting for the construction of a Cultural Center on the premises of Laird & Co. in Colts Neck. Laird & Co. is a family run business and is the oldest licensed distillery in the United States dating back to 1780. They would like the Board’s approval to construct a cultural center utilizing an original part of the barn from the 1700’s, as well as a new addition consisting of a museum, tasting room, root cellar, event space and an outdoor patio.

The Health Officer addressed the septic and well components of the project and verified the following with the engineer:

- The applicant submitted to the NJDEP a TWA (treatment works approval) Alternative Flow Determination application for their existing septic system at the request of the Health Officer. The wastewater design flow for the entire complex was determined to be under 2,000 gallons a day, therefore would remain under local jurisdiction.
- A septic inspection was conducted on the existing septic system by a third party.

- Repairs were made post inspection including replacement of the distribution box due to root intrusion; existing pump repairs; baffle repair and septic tank lids replaced.
- The existing septic system is old but appears to be functioning okay according to the inspection reports. The disposal area consists of two 1,800 square foot stone and pipe fields.
- Only the restrooms from the new facility will be directed to the existing septic system. All other wastewater will be directed to a 2,000-gallon holding tank and pumped out by a licensed hauler.
- No actual food production will be done on site. There will be a “warming kitchen” utilized by an outside catering service. This proposed operation will need to obtain a retail food license from the Health Dept before they can operate.
- The existing water well on the site will be utilized and is already registered and regulated by the NJDEP.

The Board of Health made a motion to accept the plans and approve the project. This motion was approved by Dr. Boak, seconded by Annemarie Delle Donne and unanimously carried.

Health Officer’s Report:

- Annual Rabies Clinic – The annual rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Bucks Mill Recreation Area in Colts Neck from 9:00am to 10:30am.
- Food Trucks – The Health Dept. denied 2 food truck applications at Carm’s Farm due to the applications coming in too late to review, process and set up inspections.
- WIC and SNAP Programs – The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutritional assistance program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which offer food and nutritional services to individuals in need, are now in potential jeopardy due to the government shutdown situation. The Health Dept. hasn’t received any calls so far but is keeping an eye on the ongoing situation.
- COVID-19 – There was another COVID-19 outbreak in our long-term care facility over the last month. A total of 6 individuals were affected but the outbreak appears to be under control with assistance from the Monmouth County Health Dept. epidemiologist, and with the support of the Health Officer. There have been no new cases over the last few weeks.
- Avian Bird Flu (H5N1) Update – There are still no reported cases of the disease in humans in NJ, and the human risk is also still low. The State Health Dept. continues to ask residents to take precautions when handling animals. They should avoid direct contact with sick or dead birds and always practice good hygiene around animals.
- PFAS in Well Water – The well water results that continue to pass the Health Officer’s desk for the sale of existing homes or the construction of new homes have not reflected any issues with

these chemical compounds. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are the ingredients used in various everyday products such as non-stick cookware, firefighting foam, stain resistant carpeting and many other commercial applications. Health experts believe consuming water with these compounds can potentially cause health issues.

- Drought Watch – We are still under a drought watch throughout the State. As of October 29, 2025, water supply conditions remain markedly dryer than average according to the NJDEP. Water supply status levels are Normal, Watch, Warning and Emergency.
- Retail Food Licenses Reminder – As discussed at previous Board of Health meetings, our annual renewals for brick-and-mortar retail food licenses will have a statement in the cover letter that Conditional and Unsatisfactory ratings will be posted on the Township website as of January 2026.

Liaison Report – Per the Mayor, the 2026 township budget process has begun. The Colts Neck Historic Preservation Committee will be honoring Ed Brock with a tree dedication at the Montrose Schoolhouse on November 8, 2025. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are spearheading a food drive for Earle Naval Base to benefit retired, active duty and civilians on the Base. Donations can be dropped off at the Colts Neck General Store. Veterans Day is coming up and the Colts Neck Women's Club will honor the veterans with a lunch at Cedar Drive School on November 11th. Colts Neck schools have been awarded the Purple Star School designation for their great work with military families and veterans. The Mayor also mentioned that the NJDEP is conducting a public survey on PFAS and drinking water which can be found on the Township website.

Public Comment - None

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Schatzle at 7:57 p.m. and unanimously carried. The next scheduled meeting is December 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Eschert - Secretary