Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee
Wednesday, January 21, 2025, 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library

In Attendance: Mary Pahira – Chairperson, Frank Rizzuto - Township Liaison, Tom Sullivan, Jiya Verma, Michelle Warendorf, Mallory Reardon, Jim Schatzle, Janine Strafaci, Jeanette Moriarty, Jessica Tobia, Mike Pahira, Michelle Wesibrot
Absent: Jennifer Reinson, Patricia Mitchell, Joanne Passalacqua, Maggie Osmulski & Jack Thompson – all excused

1. Mrs. Pahira called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM stating "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law have been satisfied by forwarding a news release to the Asbury Park Press on January 2, 2026 stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) would be held on January 21, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township bulletin board and a copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk." Mrs. Pahira led the Salute to the Flag.
2. Discussion Items: Swear in new & renewed members & Volunteer Handbook
3. The minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting were accepted by Mrs. Moriarty & Mrs. Reardon.
4. Old Business
   a. Historic Marker – Erie Landmark sold to Noble Bronze. Next Eastmont Orchards - Dave Barclay has verbiage with D.O. OK. 2026 4JGs date back to the early 1700's, or Mrs. Moriarty's house? Plantation at the Falls photo op in Nov, Lil' Orleans Farm photo op from end of June and should mention received Monmouth County Preservation Award. Mrs. Pahira will write Press Release.
   b. Booklet update – Mrs. Reardon will work on edits and Mrs. Battista to work with editor about a digital version with Paul Mark.
   c. Schoolhouse –1. Power wash. 2. Foundation repair. Mrs. Pahira said verbal quote from Paulson for $125,000. Mr. Rizzuto will relay to Ms. Capristo for repair budget & to have engineer to look at. Mr Rizzuto joined HPC in 2007 and the foundation needed work then. Can we use "Open Space & Historic" funding? Other items like painting and poly floors. Mrs. Pahira talked with Mr. Rizzuto about hiring Paulson like they did for the cupola. County regrant not for repair of building. Mrs. Pahira wants to apply for a grant from the county to fund Historic buildings preservation.
   d. 2026 Halloween event October 24/25 5-8pm –CN PTO Trunk or Treat same day 1-3pm. Subcommittee signups. Wagons from Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Pahira check with Mr. Orgo. Go to Trunk or Treat and drum up attendance with a spiel about needing help to find the character or hidden grave sit. Group txt for when doing setup. Need extra dozen tiki torches for 2026.
   e. 2026 Country Christmas – Dec 7th 1-4pm. Town Tree Lighting Dec 6th at 4:30pm Need to announce photo with Santa in Press Release.
   f. Monmouth 250 – Mrs. Pahira at Country 250 meeting & they want to promote tourism. WIOM revolutionary theme, May 17, 2026, Hunter Pace at Tatum Park that Ronnie Sullivan and the Colts Neck Trailriders will participate in, Parade at Middletown, Operation Sail on July 3-4. HPC to form a Monmouth 250 subcommittee with Mrs. & Mr. Pahira, & Mrs Passalacqua. We could consider a horse and buggy ride at tree lighting, house or barn tour or a Christmas lantern tour. Look into Monmouth 250 truck from July 3, 2026. Consider a scavenger hunt throughout Colts Neck. Have a scavenger hunt for historical places or a book of some sort. House Tour. Consider a "Joshua Huddy" day in 2026
   g. Mrs. Pahira and the committee suggested to engage Colts Neck Living for resident's memory.
   h. Fundraiser – On Hold - Mrs. Pahira said John Antonides said could have fundraiser. Mrs. Pahira would like to launch the brick fundraiser at Country Christmas. Set up tent with vision board of walkway and sample brick. Consider Tree Lighting too. We could get brick engraving, silver picnic bench, brick $150, $1,000 sponsor, plaque for flower garden, platinum. 5.9% if they collect money. Mrs. Reinson suggested other events like Easter bunny though rec has event. Mrs. Warendorf provided sheet with events like historic tour, photo contest of historic site or talks on such. No PayPal to trust. Mr. Pahira can we set up a QR code. Get table at fireworks and letter out for July 1st. Consider check, e-check and credit card online.
   i. Get the word out about history in Colts Neck – See Community >> Local Happenings.
   j. Vacancy –Mrs. Passalacqua waiting to be approved. Need a replacement for Mrs. Eastman. Possibly Jack Thompson or Mrs. Tobia mentioned someone she works with knows someone.

k. Student Liaison: Ed Brock's grandson rededication of plaque and the tree at Montrose Schoolhouse on Nov 8th at 2:30pm. Restore the plaque and prop up against a pot near door.
l. Mrs. Pahira wants to submit ½ mil grant for historical. Mrs. Reardon has grant writing experience.
m. Joseph Zamorski visited cemeteries on 8/9/25. It was discussed about getting a Boy Scout Eagle project for Cemetery and marker maintenance – get map of all cemeteries in town from Richard Vig. CN had resolution to allow DAR to fix markers at Polhemus cemetery. Work with local boy scouts on maintenance for Eagle Scout projects. A Boy Scout's Eagle project for Cemetery and marker maintenance – get map of all cemeteries in town from Richard Vit. Ms. Verma to check with Boy Scout Troop Holmdel #331. Or get volunteers from Young Lion's Club. Mr. Rizzuto said a group of men and his son cleared 4 cemeteries in Colts Neck.
n. Schedule Betsy Ross in Fall at Conover Rd Primary. Mrs. Battista reached out to Principal Barr for one morning on October 7-10 at 9:30am
o. Mr Sullivan bought Norway Spruce to plant at Montrose. 2025 budget - $200 for a pine and Mr. Sullivan offered $250.
p. Need to buy OPEN tall banner to attract attention. Mrs. Pahira will pick and order through town.
s. Monmouth County's Revolutionary era free educational resource for America's upcoming 250th birthday, July 4, 2026. https://monmouthnj250.org/monmouth-county-nj-revolutionary-war-history/

5. New Business
   a. Colts Neck Township budget. Asked for capital budget for Paulson's work on Montrose Schoolhouse.
   b. NJLM Preserve New Jersey Grants - Mrs. Reardon has grant writing experience
   c. Resident letter – Mrs Pahira ask for checks written to Montrose Trust. Letter to mailed by month end and list HPC members.
   d. DAR cemetery markers for Revolutionary War soldiers in CN Cemeteries unveiling in Spring
   e. 3rd grade visit Montrose Schoolhouse – Mrs Warendorf & Weisbrot to work on a date.
   f. Mr Sullivan offered to clean up the Bucks Mill Rd Grist Mill. Mr. Rizzuto would work permission from owner.
6. Comments from the Public
   Ed Piotroski of Morganville talked about the volunteer work he has done at the old Colts Neck cemeteries.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM motioned by Mr. Pahira, 2nd by Mrs. Strafaci. The next meeting is February 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library Large Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Battista, Secretary