Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library

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

1. Mrs. Pahira called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, 2025 stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) would be held on August 20, 2025, 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: The numeric stickers for Halloween and Country Christmas ordered. Mrs. Pahira explained the horseshoe built and donated by Drew Weber and Mrs. Pahira tokens on it for Lillian Burry's viewing. Colts Neck Twp Committee will dedicate schoolhouse to Lillian and add a historical marker. Cake and proclamation for Patty Eastman, unveil portrait and dedication of schoolhouse. Mrs. Pahira asked about hiring the musicians with 2-2:30pm off time. All approved except Mr. Sullivan for background music. Today was the official signing of the Constitution in 1787.
3. The minutes of the September 17, 2025, meeting were accepted by Mr. Schatzle & Mrs. Mitchell.
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. Pahira will work on edits and Mrs. Battista to work with editor about a digital version.
    c. Schoolhouse –1. Powerwash. 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. 2025 Halloween event October 25/26 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. 2025 Country Christmas – Dec 7th 1-4pm. Town Tree Lighting Dec 6th at 4:30pm
    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 – 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 Vit (sp?). 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 forming a 250 committee per resolution 2025-144. Mrs. Pahira explained what Mayor Buss told her about allowing for businesses like Lairds to participate as well as residents from Colts Neck.
   b. Town Wide database. Get CNHS students work on scanning documents and store on web. Frank mentioned M.C. archives to do scanning. MB ask if can use scanners at archives or Phone app.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM motioned by Mrs. Moriarty, 2nd by Mrs. Reardon. The next meeting is January 21, 20265 at 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library Large Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Battista, Secretary