Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library Lower Level

In Attendance: Mary Pahira – Chairperson, Mallory Reardon, Mike Pahira, Jennifer Reinson, Jessica Tobia, Patricia Mitchell, Jim Schatzle, Janine Strafaci, Tom Sullivan, Jeanette Moriarty,
Absent: Frank Rizzuto - Township Liaison, Nick Moretta, Maggie Osmulski, Jiya Verma, Michelle Warendorf, Joanne Passalacqua – 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, 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. The minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting were accepted by Mrs. Moriarty & Mrs. Reinson.
3. 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. Remove underground oil tank 3. Foundation repair. Mrs. Pahira said estimate from Paulson was $125,000. Mrs. Pahira has quote. Mrs. Pahira talked with Mr. Rizzuto about hiring Paulson like they did for the cupola. County regrant not for repair of building. Mr. Rizzuto to have a conversation with Mrs. Capristo about budget for repairs. 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 site… Consider Pizza company from national Night Out where HPC gets % of profits.
   e. 2025 Country Christmas – Dec 7th 1-4pm. Town Tree Lighting Dec 6th.
   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.
   g. Mrs. Pahira and the committee suggested to engage Colts Neck Living for resident's memory.
   h. Fundraiser – Mrs. Pahira said John Antonides said 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: Ms. Verma purchased a plaque to replace the cement plaque for Ed Brock's grandson at the tree at Montrose Schoolhouse and will look to add to it. HPC to plan ribbon cutting when pine tree in the ground. Restore the plaque and prop up against a pot near door or under tree & get volunteers for events
   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.

n. It was discussed to have a House tour in fall of 5-6 houses or a garden tour or a barn tour.
o. 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
p. Mr Sullivan to buy a Frazier Fir or Colorado Spruce to plant at Montrose. 2025 budget - $200 for a pine and Mr. Sullivan offered $250.
q. Need to buy OPEN tall banner to attract attention. Mrs. Pahira will pick and order through town.
r. Consider a "Joshua Huddy" day in 2026
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/

4. 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.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM motioned by Mr Schatzle, 2nd by Mr. Pahira. The next meeting is September 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Colts Neck Library Large Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Battista, Secretary