COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026

1. Chairman Montalvo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Chairman Montalvo asked everyone to join him in the salute to the flag.

3. "The Notice Requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by noticing the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times stating that a Regular Meeting of the Colts Neck Township Recreation Committee would be held on January 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm at 14 Heyers Mill Road. A copy is on file in the office of the Township Clerk."

4. Roll Call by Secretary, Ms. Byrne indicated the following:

Present:	Chairman Montalvo, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Wild, Mr. McNally, Mr. Garito, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Sikorskas, Township Liaison Mayor Viola
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Maguire, Ms. Kronstedt and Mr. Williams
Public Present:	None

5. **Oath of Office** – Mr. Wild and Mr. Montalvo

   Mayor Viola read the Oath of Office with Mr. Wild and Mr. Montalvo, who were then sworn in as members of the Recreation Committee.

6. **Discussion Items**

   Mayor Viola shared the Township Reorganization that took place on January 2. New Committeeman, John Tobia, was sworn in for a 3-year term to the Township Committee. At the January 14 Township Committee meeting we discussed upcoming Monmouth County 250 activities. The Township received a $200,000 grant from the Department of Community Affairs. The grant will be used to build bathrooms at Five Point Park. He stated the recent tax appraisals went up to 8.29%. The Township intends on lowering the municipal tax rate to offset the increase. Resident taxes should be the same as 2025. This month Department Heads will be submitting their 2026 budgets to the Township Administrator. The Township Committee will work through the budgets. The Township Budget will be approved by the end of March and adopted in April. Mr. Montalvo asked Mayor Viola what the plans are for the bathrooms. Mayor Viola stated the bathrooms will be simple at the beginning and could expand in the future. The project is being worked into the 2026 budget and should be mapped out by the 2nd Quarter of this

year. He is not sure if the bathrooms will be completed by the end of the year. Because we will be using the drawings and plans from work that was done three years ago there will be no additional cost to the Township for drawings and plans. Mr. Sikorskas asked what the cost would be, Mayor Viola shared the project will use a $200,000 grant and a $542,000 bond for the project. Should it go over $700,000 the project will be scaled down not to exceed $700,000. Mr. Montalvo was glad to hear about the project and noted the Recreation Committee did a wonderful job compiling those bathroom plans. We will not need to take time or money to duplicate past site plans. Mr. Marques added he met with Township Engineer Glen Gerken today and confirmed the plans are good and can be used for this project.

7. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Montalvo asked for comments to the November 17, 2025, meeting minutes. With no comments, Chairman Montalvo called on a motion to approve, Ms. Sullivan approved the motion, Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Mr. Garito asked if the committee had to respond to questions from Mr. O'Brien, a resident, in attendance at our November 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Montalvo replied, Committeeman Buzzetta replied to those questions at our November meeting.

Mr. Marques introduced Recreation's High School Intern who will be with the Department for the next few months. He will be shadowing Mr. Marques in conjunction with his High School program. He is excited to be here and looks forward to making a difference and learning about local government.

8. **Old Items**

a. Holiday Tree Lighting Program Recap
Mr. Marques shared the December 6 event was great and very well attended. He asked Mr. McNally and Mr. Wild how they thought the hot chocolate went this year. Mr. Wild replied everything ran smoothly, they must have given out close to five hundred cups of hot chocolate. Mr. McNally shared that Mr. Marques may need to double the donut order next year. He noted Scout leaders Michael Taeshler and Brad Daniels kept the Scouts busy serving hot chocolate. Mr. Marques thanked Delicious Orchards, Dunkin Donuts, Glen Dalakian of CSAV, for donating their equipment and his time to ensure the sound quality was great. We also had the Colts Neck Dance and Performing Arts dancers and the Elementary School choir singing carols. Mayor Viola added Santa Claus did a great job.

b. Montrose Country Christmas Recap
There was a special dedication to Lillian Burry for her work with the Historical Society. Mr. Marques said it was a nice addition this year to have visitors c

create wreaths. Mr. Sullivan donated wreath supplies. The event also included seasonal refreshments and music. Mayor Viola stated the dedication to Lillian Burry was much deserved. He added Lillian's granddaughter was in attendance to represent the family. It was a lovely day. Mr. Garito noted there is not a lot of parking at Montrose School. Mr. O'Connor stated parking is on Holland Lane. Mayor Viola added, people come and go, so there is no problem with parking. And the Fire Police are on site to assist with any traffic.

c. Parks, Fields, and Facilities Updates
Mr. Marques noted it was a great year for field usage. January is a slow month for field usage; however, we are already receiving field requests for Spring/Summer. The Community Center is reserved by sports groups on Sundays 8:00 am to 8:30 pm, weekdays after school and evenings for children's Sports and Scouting activities. Senior Pickleball holds their Pickleball games on Monday afternoons.

d. Senior Update
Mr. Sikorskas passed out copies of the January Senior Newsletter referencing their activities and trips. Over ninety members have attended meetings at the Colts Neck Inn in the past five months. 122 members/guests attended our popular Holiday Luncheon at the Molly Pitcher in December. Mayor Viola commented that this Senior Club is a continually active group.

9. **New Items**

a. Plans with Monmouth/Colts Neck 250 Programming
Mr. Fitzpatrick passed small posters reflecting all the upcoming 250 events in Colts Neck. Events begin on February 22 with a celebration dinner and dancing at the Colts Neck Inn with George and Martha Washington, along with Joshua Huddy. Tickets are on sale now. Information is available on the Colts Neck Business Association website. Recreation events include a fife and drum for the Memorial Day Parade. Also, on parade day plans include a one-mile race. Mr. Montalvo noted the Sports Foundation may incorporate a 250 event the week before July 4, featuring a Home Run Derby and Flag Football Championship. They are looking at all ideas; nothing has been finalized yet. If anyone has an idea, please contact Mr. Montalvo. Mr. Marques added May 6 there will be a Barn Tour, another event this year marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11, December 5 Tree Lighting will possibly include horse and carriage rides. Ms. Sullivan added Point Pleasant and Lavalette have Clydesdales pulling the carriages. Mr. Fitzpatrick added Clydesdale horses are expensive. Mr. Wild asked if Flag Football was popular. Mr. McNally asked how many children participated in Flag Football. In 2025 there were 335 K-8 children participating. Mr. O'Conner added surrounding towns also sign up for the Sports Foundation Flag Football program. There is not enough space to accommodate games. Mr. Marques

stated there will be many Monmouth 250 events in all of Monmouth County. Including Libraries and Battleground field in Manalapan.

b. 2026 Planning Projects and Events

Mr. Montalvo stated the Sports Foundation may offer a Summer Flag Football League. They may have a "test" league this summer. Discussion regarding the Block Building was put on hold. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the Sounds of Summer will continue this year with thirteen bands lined up. They will be kicking off the season with the return of Brian Kirk and the Jirks. The Colts Neck Business Association will be sponsoring part of the cost for this concert. The Sounds of Summer committee is looking for co-sponsors this year. They will be having a meeting on Thursday regarding sponsorships. Mr. Fitzpatrick passed out the list of bands and noted some new bands this year. Mayor Viola asked what the budget was for the bands. Mr. Fitzpatrick replied it is the same as last year $7,600 not including Brian Kirk. Last year they did not come close to the budget due to rain outs. Mr. Garito shared now that others know about the event, musicians are calling them asking to play in the Sounds of the Summer concert series. Mr. O'Conner asked if the bands got paid for rain dates. Mr. Garito said no they did not get paid. Mr. Garito noted they try to make Sounds of Summer better each year. The stage location has improved; this year they plan to add a string of lights around the stage at no cost to the Township. Mr. McNally stated last year the series was improved from the year before. Mayor Viola stated sprinklers will be installed this year where the concerts take place. This should help make the grass healthier in that area. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted a schedule for cutting the grass would be appreciated. Ms. Sullivan stated moving the stage was an improvement, with the musicians not facing the sun. And it was noted; the stage is now closer to the electric box. Mr. Montalvo stated except for Brian Kirk and the Jirks most attendees were Colts Neck residents. Mr. Montalvo asked how many grants are available, what is the process of finding out about grants. Mayor Viola explained certain grants are available at the same time each year. In Mid-February, the Green Acres Grant and a Local Recreation Improvement Grant are available to applicants. Mr. Marques shared an Agriculture Grant he found with surrounding businesses. Grants could be a chance to drive up Tourism. Mayor Viola stated applying for grants that are not a matching grant, are best. An example is the DCS (Department of Community Affairs) grant because it is not a matching grant. The grant is usually up to $200K. He explained sometimes grants just pop up. An example is the 2025 Jake's Law Playground grant. Mr. Sikorskas shared he investigated the Senior Wellness Grant to boost social inclusion, but he found it was not cost effective for the Senior Club. Ms. Sullivan stated it was nice of Mr. Marques to share those grants with other local groups in town. Being aware of grants and meeting specific criteria is important. Mayor Viola added that the Township needs to be aware if anyone does apply for a grant because there may be a financial obligation from the town that would need to be budgeted.

c. 2026 Park Stewards

Mr. Marques asked the committee if anyone has issues with their current assignment. No one had any issues. He asked the committee to email him about future issues. Mr. O'Connor is planning a clean-up at Five Point Park with the help of students from Colts Neck High School. Due to the high winds, litter has blown over to the park from the construction across Rt. 537. Mayor Viola reminded everyone that Clean Communities has a budget and is managed by Jeanie Roseti of the Department of Public Works. Feel free to contact her for assistance with park clean ups. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he and Mr. Sikorskas share Schlesinger Preserve. The Department of Public Works was helpful cleaning up fallen trees at the Preserve. He encouraged everyone to check out the trails. Mayor Viola thanked the committee for the Steward Program.

10. **Comments from the Public**

Chairman Montalvo called for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Mr. McNally seconded the motion.

11. As there was no one present from the Public, Chairman Montalvo called for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Mr. Sikorskas made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Mr. McNally seconded the motion and public comment was closed.

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss Chairman Montalvo asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wild made a motion to adjourn; Mr. McNally seconded the motion. Chairman Montalvo adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary