COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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. He also asked for a moment of silence for those lives lost in 9/11.

3. "The Notice Requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by noticing the News Transcript and the Asbury Park Press stating that a Regular Meeting of the Colts Neck Township Recreation Committee would be held on September 15, 2025, 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, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Wild, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Sikorskas, Mr. McNally, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Kronstedt, Township Liaison Buzzetta
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Garito
Public Present:	Mary Ellen Griffin

5. **<u>Discussion Items</u>**

Township Liaison Buzzetta provided an update on Fair Share Housing. A developer is interested in building Townhomes on Obre Road. The proposed housing would back up to Rt. 18 and will be within approximately 3,000 feet from the safety zone at Earle. Another developer is interested in purchasing Wells Spring Farms on Rt. 537. Both projects are in preliminary stages. It seems doubtful the Navy would allow a development so close to their safety zone. The Township applied for a 2.5 million Bond Ordinance to extend affordability for some units in the Grand. There are twenty-two rentals and sixty-six owners occupied which will apply to our total for Affordable Housing. The restrictions are expiring, and the Township would like to extend the restrictions for another 30 years. These units would satisfy some of the Affordability housing without new building. This is the plan/strategy. The Township will have the right of first refusal if the owners choose to sell their unit. Mr. Sikorskas asked, do we know what the developers' plans are for water and septic systems. Township Liaison Buzzetta believes they are looking at a package treatment facility and well water. Mr. McNally asked if the Township has any idea how many schoolchildren would be added to the school from the Kushner project on Rt. 537. There were several studies from 2023. Liaison Buzzetta stated one of the schools is under capacity.

Mr. O'Brien noted the Primary School is over capacity. The units being built by Kushner are all rental units. Mr. Montalvo asked how those taxes are calculated on the Kushner rental units. Liaison Buzzetta explained the taxes are paid by the owner of the property and are based on the value of housing in Colts Neck. His understanding is units will start to be occupied by the end of this year.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Montalvo asked for comments to the June 16, 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 and the minutes were approved.

7. Old Items

a. Summer Camp Recap
Mr. Marques shared our Summer Camp was held June 30 – August 7. It was a very successful summer with 170+ campers in attendance. We have a great partnership with the Cedar Drive Middle School hosting grades K – 8. Last year due to construction at the school we had limited space. This year we had outdoor fields, gym, and art room, which all our staff appreciated. Mr. Montalvo noted changes with the registration process. Mr. Marques added, yes, registration started in March. Parents could also sign up for trips a few weeks later. Not all trips were closed out early, several trips remained open after the start of camp.

b. Senior Club Update
Mr. Sikorskas stated the club has 282 members. The club is growing. Our monthly meetings we have 80 – 90 attendees. Tomorrow we are heading for a tour of the Intrepid Museum in New York City, followed by lunch at the Chart House in Weehawken. The dues for the Senior Club are only $10 per year. Our May meeting had ninety-four attendees. Members will be able to get their flu shot at our October 1 meeting.

c. Sounds of Summer Update
Mr. Marques asked Mr. Fitzpatrick to provide a recap. Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mary Ellen Griffin for her assistance. She oversaw the promotional materials for the concert series. She patiently waited for concert details from Mr. Fitzpatrick. Once received she sent it to local magazines. He explained they had twelve scheduled concerts, due to weather two cancelled. He stated we had a big kickoff for Sounds of Summer with 500+ attendees for Brian Kirk and Jirks. The average number of residents attending the shows this summer was ninety. He asked the committee for suggestions for 2026. He noted they plan to do more online advertising. Mr. McNally commented the concert committee did a wonderful job. He enjoyed the bands this year. Liaison

Buzzetta suggested changing the night to Tuesday, in the summertime some residents leave on Thursday after work for long weekends. Tuesday would attract more of an audience. Mr. Wild added, it is important to have consistency, and people now know Thursday is concert night in Colts Neck. Mr. Montalvo asked how the stage worked out this year. Mr. Fitzpatrick appreciated Mr. Sullivan adding an extension to the stage, creating a 2-tier stage which worked out very well. Mr. Montalvo asked if bands brought their own equipment. We discussed at a previous meeting the possibility of purchasing speakers and/or a sound board. Mr. Fitzpatrick replied 99% of the bands came with their own equipment. He added the Sounds of Summer committee now has bands calling them asking to play in Colts Neck.

d. Independence Day Celebration Recap
Mr. Marques stated it was a great day except with the rain came. We shot off the fireworks, some families stayed in their cars, others drove home. Mr. Sikorskas noted, he will never forget the 2025 Fireworks because of the weather. Ms. Sullivan asked what do you do with fireworks when it rains. Mr. Marques explained, once they are placed in the casings, you cannot remove them. They did have regular vendors in attendance. Mr. O'Brien added that a few residents posted the fireworks were cancelled. He noted some residents gather at Cedar Drive each year to view the fireworks. There are no traffic issues at that location. He assumed the fireworks would go off around 9:00 pm but the fireworks went off earlier. Once it started raining, he gone home and saw the fireworks from his house and decided not to drive back to Cedar Drive. It would have been helpful if some type of communication were sent out; considering residents on social media were stating the fireworks were cancelled, and then they went off earlier than anticipated. Ms. Sullivan stated the weather had come up quickly. Mr. Marques noted after a discussion with Township Officials and Police, a decision was made to go ahead with the firework display. Mr. Marques added, we could not have traffic returning to Bucks Mill and others leaving Bucks Mill at the same time in the rain. It was suggested to have access to an alert system for future event information. Mr. Marques will contact Municipal Clerk, Trina Lindsay, to discuss the possibility of access to a system for future events.

e. Fields and Facilities Discussion
Mr. Marques shared fields are being used by the Sports Foundation. He asked Mr. Montalvo to provide additional information. He stated the largest program is Flag Football with approximately 340 children. They are turning people away. Because of an uptick of younger families moving to the Township and older teams who have aged out of the programs, most of the sports consist of younger children. The parents find the registration process organized and easy to navigate. For example, Rec Soccer has younger children, he estimates one hundred. The number of Travel soccer participants

remains consistent. Flag Football is a "monster," there are not enough fields or time for practices. Flag Football also has an end of year children's version of a "Superbowl" celebration including a tailgate in the parking lot. Weekend sport programs occur between 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Liaison Buzzetta stated the Township committee has received complaints about some sport activities having practices ending at 9:00 pm. The end time has created safety concerns for children walking through parking lots at Five Point where there is no proper lighting. Mr. Montalvo stated all sports should be ending at 8:00 pm. Township Liaison Buzzetta posed the question, should we limit field use. Mr. O'Brien replied that idea would destroy Travel Soccer. It was noted there are portable lights on the field at Five Point. The issue is the parking lot. Mr. Montalvo stated there is not much we can do about adding lighting. He explained the Sports Foundation plans to provide funding to increase electrical use at Five Point. Including installing a conduit for additional outlets. In the interim, practice times for sports could overlap to ensure all sport activities end by 8:00 pm. No one wants children to go to another Town to play sports, should a sport be eliminated due to lack of practice time. Sports cannot begin earlier due to after-school activities. Suggestions included paving the driveway and adding speed bumps at Five Point.

8. <u>New Items</u>

a. Big Brook Update
Mr. Marques stated due to safety issues caused by excessive parking, the Hillsdale entrance to Big Brook is closed. Mr. Wild commented there has been an increase in parking at the Laurelwood entrance to Big Brook. Mr. O'Connor asked, is keeping the Hillsdale entrance closed only a short-term solution. Mr. Marques stated yes, there will be further discussion related to Big Brook. Mr. Fitzpatrick added there have been visitors to Big Brook who have had picnics on resident lawns after visiting the Preserve.

b. Upcoming Fall Events
Mr. Marques thanked Ms. Sullivan for playing the bagpipes at the 9/11 ceremony. After the rain stopped on Sunday, the Colts Neck Business Association had a successful Polo event at Bucks Mill Park. The field did not get muddy, and the event continued. Many first responders were in attendance as well as the Township Committee. Next year, being the 250th anniversary of Monmouth County, The Business Association is planning to have their Polo event on an even bigger scale. October 25 is the PTO Trunk or Treat at Bucks Mil Park, also that weekend is the Historical Preservation Committee's Haunted Hayride at Colts Neck Fire House #1. The weekend of October 18 and 19 is set for the Lacrosse Tournament at Bucks Mill and Cedar Drive Parks. November 11 will be our salute to our Veterans in

conjunction with the Woman's Club. Ms. Sullivan asked why no other local churches were involved at last year's 9/11 event. Mr. Marques reached out to all the Township churches. St. Mary's had no one available on that date.

c. Winter/Holiday Programming
Mr. Marques reminded the committee that Saturday, December 6 is our Holiday Tree Lighting in conjunction with the PTO's Frosty's workshop held at the Primary School. The Historic Preservation Committee will hold their Country Christmas on Sunday, December 7 at the Montrose Schoolhouse.

Mr. Montalvo asked the committee for suggestions for new projects for the committee to focus on in the coming months. All new ideas are welcome.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the Seniors are playing Pickleball on Tuesday evenings. He suggested establishing teams and hold a Tournament with playoffs in the future.

Ms. Kronstedt suggested having a Drive Inn movie night with a variety of movies.
Mr. Fitzpatrick noted a good screen is necessary to be sure you can see the movie.

Ms. Kronstedt suggested creating a volleyball court that would be low cost. People could just show up and play. Volleyball has become very popular.

Another suggested was to create Bocce ball Courts. This may be a good idea for an Eagle Scout project.

Mr. McNally asked how many memberships we had for the Tennis/Pickleball courts this summer. Mr. Marques provided data to the committee, 26 memberships for 2025.

Mr. O'Brien asked what the plans for the Five Point crosswalks and sidewalks are. There has been an excessive number of trees removed along fence on Rt. 537. It was noted to wait until the County has completed their work, then we can ask questions.

9. 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; Ms. Sullivan seconded.

Mary Ellen Griffin was present from the Public; she is a member of the Sounds of Summer Committee. She shared their plan to increase their advertising for the 2026 Sounds of Summer concert series. Mr. Montalvo asked for a motion to

close the public portion; Mr. O'Connor made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and Ms. Sullivan seconded.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss Chairman Montalvo asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. Chairman Montalvo adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary