COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
April 21, 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.

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 April 21, 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:	Township Liaison Buzzetta, Chairman Montalvo, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. McNally, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Sikorskas, Mr. Wild
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Garito, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. Maguire

Public Present: Alan Ryan

5. **Discussion Items**:

Township Liaison Buzzetta stated the 2025 Budget will go to a vote for approval at the April 30 Township meeting. Everything is costing more, the Township must protect their Insurance, Police Department and Fire Departments. The township has tried very hard to keep the budget low, however there will be a modest increase this year. The average homeowner will see a $37 increase. Township Committee meetings will begin to be live streamed on a yet to be determined YouTube channel. Residents will be able to watch Township meetings after the date of the meeting.

6. Oath of Office for Reappointed Committee Members
This item is moved to the May meeting.

7. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Montalvo asked for comments to the March 18 meeting minutes. With no comments, Chairman Montalvo called on a motion to approve, Mr. O'Conner approved the motion, Mr. McNally seconded the motion.

8. **Old Items**

a. Stewards of the Park, Park Updates, Earth Day Cleanup
Mr. Marques thanked Mr. McNally who led a clean-up at Town Hall and Mr. Wild who led a clean-up at Big Brook Preserve. Mr. McNally partnered with the Environmental Committee. Mr. Wild partnered with the Reformed Church Youth Group. Mr. Wild noted it was nice working with the group, and they did a wonderful job. Mr. Marques encouraged committee members to take a walk at their assigned park/preserve each month. Mr. Marques encouraged all to schedule their own clean ups this month in honor of Earth Day on April 22.

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b. Spring Kickoffs – Sports Foundation
Mr. Marques shared both Flag Football and Soccer are underway. Baseball and Softball have started the season too. Unfortunately, baseball and softball did not have an opening ceremony due to the weather.

c. Pickleball/Tennis Spring
Mr. Marques stated that Open Play Pickleball will begin this Sunday, April 27, at Laird Road. The Township will promote Open Play every Sunday from 8:00 – 10:00 am. All levels are welcome. There is no formal registration or payment, players can just show up.

d. Summer Camp update
146 children are registered for camp, and several trips have sold out. Camp will return to Cedar Drive Middle School. In a few weeks, the Counselor hiring process will begin. Please remember we do not turn anyone away from Camp, should someone want to sign up this year. Chairman Montalvo asked Mr. Marques how separating trip and camp registrations worked out. Mr. Marques noted there are still openings for most trips. It worked out well, in the past some families were unable to register for camp with the trips at the same time. Parents signed up a few days later found most of the trips were full and their children were added to the waiting list. This year by offering registration and trips separately most trips have space for additional campers. Parents who registered their children for camp received a camp calendar listing all daily activities.

e. Senior Club Update
Mr. Sikorskas stated the Travel Committee has been busy planning trips. This year a trip is booked for each month except for November. A group of Club members will travel to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania this week.

f. Sound of Summer Update
Mr. Fitzpatrick provided an update by announcing the Sound of Summer kicks off on June 5 with local favorites Brian Kirk and the Jirks. The series ends on August 28. We will have Blues, Rock, Alternative, Country, and Blue Grass bands. We negotiated a lower price for Brian Kirk and the Jirks, instead of paying their fee of $5,500. The fee will be $4,500. Mr. Fitzpatrick explained that the Colts Neck Business Association donated $2,500, two anonymous donors donated $1,500, leaving the Township to pay $500. The budget for the bands was set to $7,200, the total spent is $6,950. He reminded the committee that the amount is only for the bands. We will need posters and will use the same format as last year. Ads will appear in all the magazines throughout the Summer naming the bands playing. Information will also be on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media. Ms. Sullivan suggested placing the information in the Two River Times newspaper too. Some of the bands have requests such as lighting or a stage. Mr. Fitzpatrick purchased floodlights last year and set them facing the stage. What is really needed is a sound system, which could be used for other Township events. We should consider investing in a stage and a sound system. Mr. McNally added if the sound system is used for other events, it would be a good idea to purchase one. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested putting something on wheels or two flatbeds back-to-back for a makeshift stage for this year. They may also need to put plywood on the grass in front of the stage, given the small size of the stage. One band brought their own carpets and placed them on the grass. He believes purchasing a sound system and stage warrants a discussion. Chairman Montalvo shared we should discuss and determine an estimated cost. Liaison Buzzetta added that given Brian Kirk and the Jirks popularity, there may be additional Township resources for the first concert, such as police and members of our fire department. He asked if anyone knew of someone in the Township with resources that could donate flatbed trailers to be used as stage. Other suggestions include renting a stage or adding to the existing stage. Chairman Montalvo asked what type of sound system we would need to purchase. Mr. Fitzpatrick replied at least 10 – 12-inch speakers, a

condenser microphone, and a sound board. He estimates the cost would be $3,000 to $3,500. Two speakers may cost $1,600. Ms. Sullivan asked if any of the bands come with their own speakers. Mr. Fitzpatrick replied, some bands do, others may rent equipment. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated, based on the number of Township events, it would be a good idea to purchase the equipment. Chairman Montalvo asked if we need to hire someone to run the sound board. Mr. Fitzpatrick said no, the band would set up the sound board prior to the concert. Mr. Montalvo counted the number of events and agrees purchasing a sound system does warrant another discussion by the committee.

g. Easter Egg Hunt
After 1 weather postponement, the event took place this past Saturday. Sixty plus children in all divisions were in attendance. Mr. Marques gave a shout out to the Woman's Auxiliary for assistance with the event and Delicious Orchards for donating donuts. Mr. Marques continued and said it is the fastest fun event, 2 minutes and the eggs are gone. It was a fun time and the weather was good. Even with the mix of vacations during the school break, many families came out. We also advertised our Summer Camp at the event.

h. Recreation Facilities
Mr. Marques noted at our last meeting we discussed facility improvements. Specifically, a pavilion building and indoor bathrooms at Five Point Park. Also discussed the process of funding for projects with a bond, or capital expenses. Ms. Sullivan asked when we would know if we got the Monmouth County Grant for the playground at Five Point. Mr. Marques explained the grant is not a Monmouth County Grant but is tied to Jake's Law, a NJ State Grant. Mr. O'Connor suggested extending the current trail to be inclusive to the land at Five Point. Currently, the trail is a limited figure eight. Extending the trail along Route 537 would benefit all who use the trail. He reminded the committee that Colts Neck High School uses the trail too. He suggested speaking to Jim Schlentz, Colts Neck High School Boys Cross Country Coach, regarding extending the trail. Chairman Montalvo asked what the process is to obtain a Monmouth County Grant. He added, 2 years ago, we applied for a Grant for the bathrooms at Five Point, we submitted drawings, and costs. Mr. Marques read an explanation of Monmouth County matching funds. Mr. O'Connor asked how the County determines what projects are funded. After a brief discussion it was made clear that projects need to be discussed with the Township Committee before applying for a Grant. When applying for a Grant in 2025, the funding may not be approved until late 2025.

9. <u>New Items</u>

a. Memorial Day Parade
Mr. Marques will be meeting with Mayor Torchia-Buss and others on Wednesday regarding the parade. Mr. McNally and Mr. Wild will return to coordinate the Bicycle Contest. Mr. Wild noted the big issue was the awards/trophies. There were children with broken hearts last year who did not win in any category. It was great that we had ribbons to give out to the younger children. He suggested having ribbons again this year. Mr. Marques agreed to provide ribbons this year. Mr. McNally added Ms. Kronstedt was very helpful last year, especially with "visuals." For example, she had signs made up, one showing participants where to line up. It was very organized. It was suggested to change the Bicycle contest from the beginning of the parade to after the parade at the Fire House. Or after the ceremony at the cemetery. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to leave the Bike contest at the start of the parade at Town Hall. It was noted to ask members of the Township Committee to pose for photos with the Bicycle parade participants again this year. Mr. Ryan announced everything is ready to go for the Parade, he will arrange for the hot dogs. Mr. Marques stated Mr. Maguire will donate potato chips. It was suggested not to give out the potato chips until the hot dogs were served. Mr. Ryan added Birch Beer will be donated for the event. Chairman Montalvo suggested a speaker other than one from the Recreation Committee be involved with the

Ceremony. Mr. Marques hopes to have the name of our Grand Marshal for our May meeting. Mr. McNally noted if the mayor has any changes to the parade we can tweak the line of march. Chairman Montalvo will arrange for the ice cream truck at the beginning of the parade at Town Hall and again at the Firehouse. Committeeman Buzzetta noted last year people showed up at the Firehouse before the hotdogs were cooked. Mr. Marques will reach out to the ROTC, CN Seniors, Mr. Banco for wagons, Mr. Longobardi for the golf carts and Brocks for their wagons. It was suggested the wagons drop off passengers at the cemetery and proceed towards the Firehouse to eliminate a backup along Heyers Mill Road. Ms. Sullivan added the Trail Riders will turn onto Revolutionary Road. Mr. Marques confirmed a shuttle bus has been ordered from Shamrock Bus Company.

b. Mr. Marques stated the Farmhouse 5K Fun Walk and Run is on Sunday, May 18. The event begins at the library and participants will run/walk on the path at Town Hall. Delicious Orchards will be donating fruit; water will also be available.

c. The Fishing Derby will be on June 15 at Bucks Mill Park. Colts Neck Police Department will provide bait for this event.

d. 3rd of July Fireworks sponsored by the Colts Neck Business Association. Mr. Marques is working with Mr. Nicoletta of the Colts Neck Business Association.

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; Mr. McNally seconded.

Mr. Ryan noted on April 26 the Sapling giveaway will take place at Bucks Mill Park.

As there were no further comments/questions, Chairman 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 Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss Chairman Montalvo asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McNally made a motion to adjourn; Mr. McNally seconded the motion. Chairman Montalvo adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary