COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
March 18, 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 March 18, 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. Maguire, Mr. McNally
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Garito, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. Sikorskas, Mr. Wild, Mr. Fitzpatrick
Public Present:	None

5. **Discussion Items**:

Township Liaison Buzzetta congratulated Mr. Montalvo on his official title of Chairman of the Recreation Committee. He said the Township Committee was busy preparing the budget, which will be shared at the March 26 Township meeting. Adopting the 2025 Township Budget will take place at the April 30 Township Committee meeting.

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

7. **Approval of Minutes**

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

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8. Old Items

a. Stewards of the Park, Park Updates, Earth Day Cleanup
Mr. Marques encouraged committee members to take a walk at their assigned park/preserve each month. Should there be down trees or other damage to your assigned park or preserve, please contact the Recreation office. He and the Department of Public Works have been preparing the parks for Spring activities. Mr. McNally has scheduled a clean-up at Town Hall Park on April 15. This clean-up is in conjunction with the Environmental Commission. Mr. Marques explained to Committee members Recreation will provide supplies for their park/preserve clean up. Please contact the office in advance of their clean update.

b. Spring Kickoffs – Sports Foundation
Chairman Montalvo stated Flag Football at Five Point begins, March 22 with approximately 380 children participating. Baseball/Softball at Laird Road begins on April 5 at with 220 – 250 participants. Travel Soccer will begin on April 6. Mr. Marques reminded both the Department of Public Works and volunteers have been working on field preparation to ensure everything will be ready for Spring sports. Chairman Montalvo added Travel Soccer has approximately 150 participants. The group is committed to their sport, and they do a wonderful job. Mr. Marques asked if the Blue Claw mascot will be attending the opening day of Baseball at Laird Road. Chairman Montalvo noted they are in the planning stages for the event. He will advise when he has confirmation. Chairman Montalvo noted there are new families who involved with their children's sports.

c. Pickleball/Tennis Spring
Mr. Marques reported all the Pickleball/Tennis nets are in place at the Laird Road courts. He received a suggestion from a resident to block out a day or two and a few hours for Open Play Pickleball. He will advise at our April meeting the days/times for Open Play.

d. Summer Camp update
Mr. Marques shared camp registration opened on March 12 for children completing grades in K-8. We had ninety plus campers registered in the first week. As of today, there are fifty-three K-3 children registered, and forty-six grades 4-8 children registered. This year we held only camp registration, without trip registration. Trip registration will begin on April 2. Last year many parents signed up for trips on the first day of camp registration, filling up most of our trips. Some parents were unable to sign up for trips and instead added their children to trip waitlists. Chairman Montalvo asked Mr. Marques if there is a cut off of how many campers attend each trip. Mr. Marques replied, trips

are limited. We were told this year by the bigger venues such as I-Play we may only be able to bring one bus. Similar with bowling, there are only so many lanes to accommodate campers. We do not have a cut off for our camp registration. Mr. Marques added as of today, we are in line with camp preparations. Counselor interviews will take place at our building in early May, according to Mr. Marques.

e. Recreation Facilities
This morning Mr. Marques met with Liaison Buzzetta, Township Administrator Capristo, Mr. Montalvo, and Mr. Reisinger, to discuss future park facilities. Mr. Marques asked the committee for feedback/ideas. Chairman Montalvo stated last year we added electricity to have the celebrity portable bathrooms at Five Point. After spending approximately $30,000 it was not a pleasant experience. People did not want to go into the facilities after 6 pm. Part of the discussion this morning was whether to do one project and move quickly to the next or do two projects at the same time. If anyone has project suggestions, please email Liaison Buzzetta, Chairman Montalvo, or Mr. Marques. Mr. O'Connor added we have the indoor bathrooms at Laird, then we should offer similar bathrooms at Five Point. Ms. Sullivan added years ago we are talking about adding a playground at Town Hall and nothing came of it. What happened to the money that was set aside for that playground. Can it be used for a different park project. Discussion continued noting the Department of Public Works puts aside money each year in preparation for maintenance at the turf field at Five Point Park. Mr. O'Connor stated it is up to the Township Committee when to vote to Bond a specific project. Mr. McNally asked Liaison Buzzetta if there was a project template document the Township uses for potential park projects. He did not believe there was a template. Prioritizing projects would be useful, Mr. O'Conner stated. Ms. Sullivan asked if the Capital improvements budget was used for the turf field. Township Liaison Buzzetta asked if anyone questioned the type of materials that were used for the turf field. In the past, there were health concerns about children playing on turf fields. Mr. Montalvo replied, yes, the type of materials used for our turf field was researched and the material was certified to be safe.

9. New Items

a. Senior Citizen Club Update
Mr. Marques stated the club has 272/280 members. Their monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Colts Neck Inn. Liaison Buzzetta noted Colts Neck Police sends two officers to attend these meetings. Both provide a great service advising the club about scams, cybercrime and reminding residents to lock their homes and cars.

b. Sounds of Summer Update
Mr. Marques stated Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Garito are busy booking bands for the Sounds of Summer. He will reach out to them and provide an update via email.

c. Easter Egg Hunt
The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Firehouse #1 on April 12 with a rain date of April 19. It was noted the event conflicts with Flag Football.

d. Memorial Day Parade
Mr. Marques will contact Mr. Ryan regarding the hot dogs. He asked the committee for ideas/thoughts for the parade. Chairman Montalvo spoke to the order of the parade. The wagons go first then when they get backed up, children are walking around cars along the parade route. Could we drop off the groups on those wagons at Memorial Park for the ceremony and remove the wagons from the Memorial Park area. Participants would then need to walk the ¼ mile to the Firehouse. Ms. Sullivan suggested the wagons return to Memorial Park for those who want a ride to the Firehouse or return to the start of the parade. If, for example, the Girl Scouts want to walk to the Firehouse they could. The wagons would drop off participants at Memorial Park and drive to the Firehouse, then the Line of March may not back up. Liaison Buzzetta noticed people arriving at the Fire House for hot dogs and ice cream before the ceremony at Memorial Park was completed. It is sometimes chaotic, as people arrive early. Mr. O'Conner shared communication is key for the parade. Someone needs to advise participants in the parade to keep the parade moving. Liaison Buzzetta asked why one year the ceremony was at the Firehouse. The mayor at the time made that decision, Chairman Montalvo stated. The mayor also decides the Grand Marshal for the parade. Mr. McNally asked if we would be running the shuttle bus back and forth on the parade route as we did last year. Mr. Marques noted parade participant; Dick Winters passed away recently. For many years, he participated in our Memorial Day parade by joining other military vehicles with his 1943 Willys jeep.

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. Maguire seconded. No one from the public was in attendance. 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. Maguire seconded.

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11. Adjournment

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 21, at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary