COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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

2. Vice-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 February 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, Vice-Chairman Montalvo, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Wild, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Sikorskas
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. McNally and Mr. Garito
Public Present:	None

5. **Discussion Items**:

Township Liaison Buzzetta shared Saturday; February 22 is the Township Budget hearing at Town Hall. The meeting begins at 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. It is open to the Public as each Department Head reviews their budgets for 2025. Mr. Marques noted Recreation has several important items such as the Senior Citizen budget and Summer Concert Series. If anyone can attend the meeting to support our budget it would be appreciated. He advised our Recreation budget review is scheduled for 9:30 am this Saturday.

6. Oath of Office for Reappointed Committee Members
Township Liaison Buzzetta read the Oath of Office with Mr. Sikorskas, Mr. Maguire, and Ms. Kronstedt. All were sworn in as members of the Recreation Committee.

7. **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Sullivan contacted Ms. Byrne prior to this meeting and requested Mr. Montalvo's title be changed from Co Chair to Vice Chair. She also noted the Monmouth County 250 Anniversary is next year, and the Colts Neck Trail Riders

will be sponsoring an event, in conjunction with Monmouth County Parks on May 16, 2026. Both items pertain to January 21, 2025, minutes.

Ms. Byrne confirmed these changes were completed. The committee voted to approve minutes from November 18, 2024, and January 21, 2025.

8. Old Business

a. 2025 Ideas/Event Updates
Mr. Marques provided a highlight of upcoming events: Summer Camp registration is scheduled to begin mid-March. We have booked several trips. We also have a vacancy for a Camp Supervisor. Brian Schifano was Supervisor of grades K-3 and has decided not to return this year. He began working at the camp as a Counselor in 2016 and quickly moved up to Assistant Supervisor and Supervisor of grades K-3. Mr. Marques asked if anyone knows of a teacher or other qualified person who may be interested in the position to let him know. Opening Day of Baseball is April 5, April 12 Easter Egg Hunt at Firehouse # 1, Joanne Dafeldecker will create gift baskets by grade for the event, for those who collect the most eggs. Opening Day of Baseball/Softball is April 5 at Laird Road. Mr. Marques will be attending the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Atlantic City on Monday and Tuesday of next week. He explained many vendors will be in attendance to share ideas for park projects and sports ideas. The conference also provides work sessions. He will provide an update at our March 18 meeting.

b. Inclusive Playground Proposal
A Monmouth County Grant application has been submitted for the playground. A Resolution was approved at the February 12 Township meeting. The deadline for the Grant application was February 5. Mr. Montalvo asked if a project amount was submitted. Mr. Marques said quotes from vendors plus other fees were included in the application. The approximate cost would be $580K. $440K from the Grant and the Township would pay the balance.

9. New Items

a. Senior Citizen Club Update
Mr. Sikorskas reported the club has 262 members. The club had a recent renewal process, a few members may have not renewed their membership yet. Their February 5 Meeting/Luncheon was a great turnout with ninety-one members. He hopes the meetings continue to grow. In January, a group traveled to the Algonquin Theater in Manasquan to view the play, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. Thursday they will have lunch at the Polo Club on Rt. 34 in Holmdel. The event was set to have forty-five people attend. And

sixty-two signed up. There is an interest in the club to go out to lunch. Monday, March 10, they return to the Shore Club (aka Doolan's) in Spring Lake. This event includes a comedian, live music, and open bar to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The month of May they travel to Cape May, visiting the Zoo and having lunch at the Lobster House. Their next meeting is March 5 at the Colts Neck Inn.

b. Survey Results
Mr. Marques shared a survey he sent out via Community Pass and to the Sports Foundation. He received 126 responses. The survey was to identify with residents what recreation and park areas they are using, and to ask for suggestions and improvements to parks and recreation activities. Survey results ranged from extended summer camp, pave the driveway at Five Point, add baseball fields, volleyball courts, exclusive pickleball courts, add inclusive equipment, and indoor bathrooms at Five Point. Mr. Marques will send the committee a copy of the survey results. It was noted the survey focused on families with children who participate in sports. The survey was a quick measure in a short amount of time. Mr. Montalvo stated it was a good sign families are interested in events and improvements to the parks. He explained this morning he met with Mr. Marques, Township Liaison Buzzetta, Township Administrator Capristo and Sports Foundation President Steve Luthmann. The meeting was to discuss Park projects and to ensure projects are in line with the Township. The committee recalled the past Township Master Plan surveys. Ms. Sullivan suggested sending another survey via the Township website distribution list, which would include a variety of residents.

c. Stewards of the Park, Park Updates, Earth Day Cleanup
Mr. Marques asked the committee if they would aim for park/preserve cleanups between April 17 – April 19, prior to Earth Day on April 22. The Department of Public Works will supply trash bags and tools for trash pick-up. Please call our office and we will have items ready for your clean-up. Mr. Marques mentioned April 26 is Celebrate Trails Day. He explained that Big Brook Greenways, the Town Hall Trail could be used for families to get involved with our natural resources in Town. "Chalk the Walk" is an inspirational art project used by children and their families. Children could write inspirational messages with chalk or create a theme. It could be run as a competition too.

d. Spring Kickoffs – Sports Foundation
Flag Football begins on March 22 at Five Point. Mr. Montalvo stated Softball and Baseball Opening Day will be April 5 at Laird Road. Sign-ups are going well. There are many young new families who are excited and motivated for children's sports.

e. Pickleball/Tennis Spring
Mr. Marques shared there is one net on the courts. He will add the other nets to the Laird Road courts early March. There have been no parking complaints at Laird when sports activities and Pickleball/Tennis courts are being used. Adding a split rail fence was a good idea.

f. Summer Camp
The Board of Education confirmed Recreation Summer Camp will be held at Cedar Drive Middle School this year. There will be no major construction this year. Mr. Marques added several trips have begun being booked. There is a Supervisory vacancy. Brian Schifano, after many years working at the camp, has decided not to return this summer. Ms. Kronstedt asked if there is a need for Counselors. Mr. Marques noted we will not know until mid-April when we identify how many counselors are returning. Camp registration is set to begin mid-March.

g. Egg Hunt
Our annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 12 at Fire House # 1. Gift baskets for each age group will be given to those children who collect the most eggs.

Miscellaneous Discussion:
Summer Concert Series - Mr. Fitzpatrick reported they have booked four bands; two other bands will play, and he is working to confirm their dates and two other bands in the wings.

Survey – Mr. Montalvo suggested sending out a survey via the Township website. Mr. Marques will modify 1 or 2 questions. Mr. Maguire suggested posting the survey to our Facebook page and/or Instagram.

Ms. Sullivan left the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Five Point Park discussion
Mr. Montalvo stated the portable bathrooms are a big issue at Five Point. The service for the existing bathrooms has not worked out well. He suggested getting bids for other vendors.

To enhance Five Point, a suggestion was made to start by adding a pavilion. And continue with other amenities such as indoor bathrooms and recreation space. The location will need a new septic and well too.

10. Comments from the Public

Vice-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. Sikorskas

seconded. No one from the public was in attendance. Vice-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.

11. Adjournment

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

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary