COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm

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

2. Chairman Cantalupo 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 November 18, 2024, 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 Viola, Chairman Cantalupo, Mr. Maguire, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Montalvo, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Sikorskas
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. McNally, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. Garito and Mr. Wild
Public Present:	None

5. **Discussion Items**:

Committeeman Viola shared the new gazebo is in place at Town Hall, hopefully if we have a mild day Santa will be sitting outside on December 7. The Township is closing out the last bills list for 2024 at the December 11 Township meeting. This meeting will also be the last Township meeting for Committeeman JP Bartolomeo after nine years of serving on the Township Committee. The Township is working on Round 4 of Affordable Housing.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Cantalupo called for comments. Committeeman Viola had one correction, under Discussion Items, replace "presentation" with "Resolution." Ms. Byrne will make the correction to the October minutes. Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to approve the October 21, 2024, minutes. On a motion by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. The Recreation Committee October 21, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

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7. Old Business

a. Fall Events

Mr. Marques provided an event summary; Colts Neck Sports Foundation Flag Football Superbowl was held on Saturday at Five Point. The event included a DJ and a walk out through a balloon tunnel by each grade/group. Everyone was enjoying the day. There were Lacrosse tournaments, two were scheduled, one was a last-minute tournament. We received a call from the owner of Trilogy Lacrosse who lost their field for the upcoming weekend. With the partnership of CNPD and DPW we were able to accommodate the request at Bucks Mill Park. The PTO's children's Trunk or Treat took place at Bucks Mill. Also in attendance were members of Colts Neck First Aid and Fire Departments. The Historical Committee held their Haunted Hayride at Fire House 1. Mr. Marques stated what this was a great event. He will work with the Historical Committee in 2025 to get the word out about this event and possibly align all of the Fall events. Ms. Sullivan added the Trail Rider's event at Bucks Mill was held on November 10, it was a great event. They had forty horses attending, and the trails were in good shape. She noted everything worked well with the Lacrosse group who were also using Bucks Mill. Committeeman Viola added the Township held a Free Rabies clinic at the Community Center on November 9.

b. Veterans Day

Mr. Marques shared on November 11 at 11:00 am, Cedar Drive Middle School held a Veteran's Day Ceremony hosted by Col. Jim Sfayer. The Woman's Club provided a great lunch. The school choir and band performed. Students introduced Veterans at the ceremony by reading their names with their branch of service. Committeeman Viola noted it was Mr. Hennessy's vision to have the students involved with our Veteran's Day ceremony. It was special to have parents from Earle introduced by their children during the ceremony. Also included, per Mr. Marques was an ice cream truck.

c. Parks, Fields, and Facilities Update

Mr. Marques thanked Mr. Sikorskas for sending a photo of a down tree at Schlesinger Preserve. Mr. Marques placed a work order with Public Works to remove the down tree. He also added that the trees by the walkway at Schlesinger have been removed. Chairman Cantalupo asked about the condition of Big Brook Preserve. Mr. Marques reported many of the trees the Township was concerned about have broken up and were pushed down stream. We have not been contacted for many trips. He continued to report Public Works cleaned up the Laurelwood side near the bridge. He will continue to check Big Brook and keep the Preserve maintained.

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8. New Items

a. Senior Update

Mr. Sikorskas announced the club elected Ray Shebell as their 2025 President and elected Nancy Walton as their 2025 Vice President. Both will be sworn in at the January meeting. He added Tuesday is their annual overnight trip to Lancaster, PA for shopping and a show at the Sight and Sound Theater. Committeeman Viola asked how many members are in the club. Mr. Sikorskas stated they had a few new members join, increasing the member total to 278. Chairman Cantalupo asked about trips for 2025. Mr. Sikorskas explained they have a Travel Committee who are planning 2025 trips.

b. Holiday Tree Lighting/Montrose Country Christmas

The committee reviewed the 2024 Tree Lighting program. Mr. Marques received confirmation from the following groups that they will participate: Colts Neck Dance, Conover Road Elementary School choir led by BJ Willis, and both Girl and Boy Scouts. Mr. Wild emailed a list of hot chocolate supplies to Mr. Marques. The supplies will be ordered this week. Mr. Marques will contact Committeewoman Fitzpatrick regarding the Colts Neck Business Association sponsored Window Painting Award Presentation. It was agreed to monitor the program time during the Tree Lighting. In the event of bad weather, the program would be expedited. It was suggested the Colts Neck Brass Ensemble play at the beginning and end of the program (after Santa arrives) eliminating their performance in the middle of the program. Mr. Maguire suggested giving each group a time limit and/or asking how much time they would need. All agreed that the Fitzpatrick Family Singers and Conover Road Elementary School choir should not sing duplicate songs.

Montrose Country Christmas - Mary Pahira, Chairman of the Colts Neck Historical Committee, will be reading the Night Before Christmas during this event on December 8. Light snacks will be offered between 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

c. 2025 Ideas/Plan

Mr. Marques asked the committee for recreation/parks project ideas. He stated the Luxury community, “Livana,” being built across from Five Point Park and Colts Neck High School on Rt. 537 will continue to be on this list.

He shared he is compiling a fitness/summer camp survey, asking the community what they would like to see for the future.

Mr. Maguire suggested extending the summer camp for another week or two. Mr. O’Connor noted some camps have a hard time keeping enough

employees to complete an extra week or two of camp in August. Many return to college early/mid-August. Plus, some Fall sports may begin in Mid-August.

Chairman Cantalupo recalled this committee takes direction from the Township Committee. We have not been assigned a project by the Township Committee recently, however in the past we have been asked to take a deep dive into Recreation/Park projects.

Committeeman Viola suggested scaling back the number of Summer Concerts. The concerts had 70-80 attendees. Ms. Sullivan added she attended many of the concerts with her children and grandchildren, there were not many children in attendance. She suggested an ice cream truck join on the night of the concerts next year. It was helpful to have the Lions Club give out popcorn and Boy Scouts sell soda at one concert. Another suggestion was made to try every other Thursday, with thirteen concerts, perhaps the schedule was too aggressive. Maybe the momentum was lost. Mr. O'Connor explained some sports start during the summer and it is not easy to have families attend the concerts. It was suggested to coordinate with the Sports Foundation schedule. Another suggestion was to alternate with a movie in the park. Ms. Sullivan stated having the events consecutively on Thursdays was easy to remember.

All agreed it was great planning to have National Night Out with Movie Night/Camp Out. Mr. O'Connor added many people knew about this event.

Ms. Sullivan stated the previous Master Plan for Colts Neck included Bucks Mill Park trails. The Department of Public Works did a wonderful job clearing the trails, the Trail Riders marked the trails via GPS, but the park needs visible trail markers. Mr. Marques had ordered and received over 100-disc markers and stakes. She recently walked the trails with a Coach from Cedar Drive Middle School and stated there are five miles of sporadically marked trails. She suggested removing the old markers and replacing them with the new markers. It would be helpful to have a plot plan on paper of the trails too. It was suggested to add trail markers at Schlesinger Preserve.

Mr. Montalvo suggested planting the same shrubbery as Laird Road Park, near the split rail fence, at Five Point Park on the side of the turf field facing Rt. 537. He also asked Mr. Marques for assistance from the Department of Public Works to move the old sheds at Five Point. The Sports Foundation will be replacing those sheds with new ones. Mr. Marques stated the CNPD is working on options for a new traffic pattern for children getting dropped off and picked up at Five Point Park.

d. <u>Set Committee Meeting Dates for 2025</u>

Mr. Marques read off the dates for 2025, noting January and February due to holidays, our meeting would be on Tuesdays. In addition, our March 17 meeting would move to Tuesday, March 18. There was a brief discussion on when we would return to the meeting room in the Annex building. It was determined our meeting location will remain at 14 Heyers Mill Road until the work in the Annex building is completed. Mr. Marques asked Committeeman Viola if he had an estimated date when the Annex work would be completed. Committeeman Viola replied he would speak to Township Administrator Capristo for more information.

9. Comments from the Public

Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to open the public portion; Mr. Montalvo seconded. No one from the public was in attendance. Chairman Cantalupo 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. Montalvo seconded.

10. Adjournment

Before adjourning, Chairman Cantalupo asked the committee for their input on cancelling our December 16 meeting. All agreed to cancel the meeting. With no further business to discuss Chairman Cantalupo asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Montalvo made a motion to adjourn; Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Chairman Cantalupo adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary