COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 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 September 16, 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:	Deputy Mayor, Tara Torchia Buss, Chairman Cantalupo, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Wild, Mr. McNally, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. O'Conner, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Sikorskas
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Township Liaison, Michael Viola, and Mr. Garito
Public Present:	None

5. **Discussion Items**:

Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss shared the library is getting a new roof, the project should be completed this week. The Annex building will be receiving a new HVAC system. No date has been established when the building will open. There are discussions on how to enhance parking at Five Point Park, Public Works Director Bader shared several options to add parking with Mr. Marques. It was agreed new signage would be posted at Five Point for the additional parking. The Township Committee has expanded LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) and encourages residents to consider becoming a volunteer within the Township. The Township Committee was invited to attend the USS NJ submarine ceremony at Earle. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss attended and stated it was a wonderful event. The town has a wonderful partnership with Earle for land preservation. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss added the partnership extends to Colts Neck Schools where many children living at Earle attend.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Cantalupo called for comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes. On a motion by Mr.

Maguire and seconded by Mr. McNally. The July 15, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

7. Old Business

a. Summer Camp Recap

Mr. Marques shared we had a successful six weeks of camp with 180 plus campers, trips sold out quickly. We were able to extend some trips for additional campers to attend. Challenges during camp included Cedar Drive Middle School construction, waitlisting many campers for trips and parents pick up and drop off procedures. Overall, the children enjoyed a fun and happy experience. We also sponsored an extended two-week Multi Sports Camp at Bucks Mill Park led by resident John Killick. It was so popular, they added a third 4-day week camp prior to Labor Day.

b. Big Brook

During the August 13, Township Committee meeting, the Committee decided to eliminate the permit process. This permit process was required for groups of fifteen or more planning a visit to Big Brook. Mr. Marques explained the new signage will be posted noting the steep banks and tree stability along the brook. Chairman Cantalupo noted parking has improved at Big Brook. Mr. Sikorskas asked if visitors will still need to limit their findings. Mr. Marques replied yes, visitors to the park will still need to limit their findings.

c. Sounds of Summer

Mr. Marques stated there was only one rainout concert this year. There was a wide variety of music, something for everyone. Local bands, the Black Ties and Colts Neck resident Skip and Friends were the concerts most attended. Mr. Marques asked members to raise their hands if they attended any of the concerts. He also asked for feedback to improve next year and increase attendance. Chairman Cantalupo noted his job sometimes requires several evening meetings during the week and he was unable to attend the concerts. If he did have a free evening he would spend it with his family. Ms. Kronstedt asked if it was advertised what type of music each band played. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated, yes, the genre of music was advertised along with each band. Mr. Sikorskas asked if the 90-minute concert was too long. Mr. Marques said the 90 minutes were just right and others agreed. Mr. McNally was surprised that during the Black Ties concert he met several people from other towns. Mr. Fitzpatrick shared a few of the bands may not return next year. He continued that there were 65 to 70 attendees at the concerts. He followed up with the ad hoc committee and they confirmed the Black Ties and Skip and Friends drew the biggest crowds. The idea is for those who attended to spread the word and next year attendance will be bigger. Mr. McNally asked if it made a difference having the concerts in front of the Town Hall annex rather than the back as it was done in the past. Due to weather,

one of the concerts was held under the cover at the back to Town Hall. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss noted residents walking the path at Town Hall, stopping to listen to the music. Mr. Fitzpatrick added having the Lions Club sell popcorn was a big hit. The ad-hoc committee may add an ice cream truck next year. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss stated some residents in town have beach homes, and the township is very quiet during summer months. Ms. Sullivan noted, with 180 campers at summer camp, there must be families in town during the summer who could attend the concerts. A comment was made for next year to add on the advertisements that pets are permitted. Many towns have concerts in the park and now Colts Neck will be part of that group. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested putting a tarp over the stage to provide shade for the musicians next year. For the last few summer concerts when it was getting darker, he provided a few sets of small lights on the stage. The bands appreciated it. Mr. Cantalupo added it was a successful summer concert series.

d. <u>Fields/Parks Big Brook Update</u>

Mr. Marques distributed a report from Community Pass reflecting all the park reservations. He was at several parks this past weekend, at Five Point 150 flag football players, Rec Soccer on the grass, Colts Neck High School had a football game. Bucks Mill hosted Soccer Shots, a Mensa picnic and baseball. Cedar Drive had NJ Elite LAX, CN Youth Football and USA Sport Group – Multi Sports. Mr. Marques asked each Park Steward to please drop by your assigned park/preserve. Ms. Kronstedt reported that while the sandbags are a great idea to hold the pickleball nets down, they need to be more durable. Near the zippers, sand is leaking onto the courts. Mr. Marques will investigate the bags. He asks if you see trash, or any issues please send him an email with a photo. Mr. Marques confirmed Town Hall Park includes the paved path. Mr. McNally asked who cut down the brush along the fence near the police station. Mr. Fitzpatrick shared it was a joint effort with the Green Team and DPW. They started clearing the brush away and DPW completed the job. That area is part of a greenway and is located on the north side of the path (near the house with the pool). Chairman Cantalupo suggested checking the assignments during Earth Day and at least six months after Earth Day. Mr. Fitzpatrick shared that he and other neighbors cleaned up Schlesinger Preserve the best they could. They will be organizing another clean up soon. Chairman Cantalupo noted you cannot walk the back trail. He and his daughter walked it, and they were climbing over trees. It is problematic. There is no access to the old stairs near Big Brook. Ms. Sullivan stated when DPW was asked to clear up the trails at Bucks Mill, it was completed within a few days. Mr. O'Connor also noted they cleaned up Five Point back by Rt. 18 about a month ago. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss shared what a great idea to have a Stewards of the Park/Preserve program. Mr. Maguire asked if the Department of Public Works (DPW) cleans up parks once a year or is there is a set schedule. He suggested asking for parks to be cleaned-up once a

month. Mr. Marques will work with DPW, currently there is no set schedule. Mr. O'Connor reported the path behind Rt. 18 that is used by the Colts Neck High School Cross Country team sometimes has long grass by the baseball fields. Mr. O'Connor noted residents also have Report a Concern for park issues. He continued by suggesting having the QR code at the parks for reporting issues.

e. Upcoming Fall Events
Mr. Marques stated the 9/11 event was held at Town Hall before the Township meeting. Approximately fifty attendees including members of the Colts Neck Police, EMTs, and Fire Departments were in attendance for the simple solemn ceremony. October 19 is the Historical Committee Hayride event at Colts Neck Firehouse # 1, October 26, PTO Trunk or Treat at Bucks Mill Park and another LAX Tournament in October. Chairman Cantalupo, Mr. Marques met with Mary, owner of the CN Deli for ideas for new Township events.

8. New Business

a. Senior Update
Mr. Sikorskas reported a group of Seniors returned from a 4-day trip to Newport, RI. No complaints were voiced about this trip. Forty members travelled by bus to Newport. All attendees enjoyed the trip. Thursday they will attend a tour of the Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel. The tour will be led by the designer of the Memorial, followed by lunch at a local Vietnamese restaurant. October, they head to Kingston, NY for a boat ride down the Hudson River followed by lunch and a train ride to view the Autumn foliage. November, they will view Fiddler on the Roof at the Axelrod Theater in Deal, followed by their traditional 2-day trip to Lancaster, PA to attend a Sight and Sounds production. The club has 280 members, and their monthly meetings/luncheons have 70-75 attendees.

b. Campout/Movie Night
This event is scheduled for September 28, 4:00 pm on the grass near the Annex Town Hall. It will also partner with the Colts Neck Police and the Alliance. Because the National Night Out was cancelled due to weather, vendors including food trucks, ice cream and games from that event will be in attendance on September 28. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss announced this is a free vent from 4 – 7 pm just as it would have been at the National Night Out. Burgers, games etc. In the evening, the movie will be shown.

c. Photo Area Options
Ms. Kronstedt explained having a display for families to use as a backdrop for photos. Everyone has a cell phone for photos so no photographer would be necessary. It could be movable and move around town for events or a simple

wooden structure with a waterproof backdrop. Some other ideas discussed were bales of hay and pumpkins. The Photo backdrop could be set up at the Trunk or Treat event. Ms. Kronstedt suggested asking vendors to donate items, keep it rustic. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss suggested marketing all events. Everyone thought a photo backdrop was a great idea.

d. Sports Foundation Projects
Mr. Marques report 13U Cougars requested to use Bucks Mill field #2. The field needed work. The Sports Foundation donated $5K of infield dirt and cut and reseeded the fields over a weekend. The Sports Foundation also replaced old sheds a Five Point. In addition to providing bleachers at Bucks Mill Park. Deputy Mayor Torchia Buss shared how fortunate the town is to have this organization, and the Township Committee is very appreciative for all they do.

e. New Classes
LEGO STEM classes for grades 2-5, Yochiet (yo-chee-yay) is a combo of Yoga, Tai Chi, Ballet, Mediation and Breathwork for Adults.

Mr. Marques added with the library closed we have been hosting numerous Township meetings at 14 Heyers Mill Road.

9. Comments from the Public
Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Mr. Wild made a motion to open the public portion; Mr. McNally seconded. No one from the public was in attendance. Chairman Cantalupo asked for a motion to close the public portion, Mr. Maguire made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and Mr. Wild seconded.

10. Miscellaneous – Mr. Fitzpatrick introduced Sounds of Summer ad hoc committee member Mary Ellen Griffin. He explained Mary Ellen is a great asset for her work with the concert series and in the planning of an art show. A round of applause by the Recreation Committee followed with a thank you for her being a part of the success of the Sounds of Summer Series.

11. Adjournment
As there was no further business, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Montalvo made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Kronstedt seconded the motion. Chairman Cantalupo adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne, Secretary