COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2024, at 7:00 pm
via ZOOM

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. Chairman Cantalupo read the following Sunshine Statement: "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 July 15, 2024. at 7:00 pm via Zoom. A Legal Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press on July 9, 2024, listing the change of venue and Zoom information. 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. Wild, Mr. McNally, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. O'Conner, Mr. Montalvo
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Garito, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Sikorskas
Public Present:	None

5. **Discussion Items**:

Committeeman Viola stated this time of year is a quiet time in the Township. The July 4 celebration at Bucks Mill Park was a great event. The Road Repair schedule will be published on August 14. The date is approximate. Our next Township meeting will be on September 11.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Cantalupo called for comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to approve the June 17, 2024, minutes. On a motion by Mr. Wild, Mr. O'Connor seconded. The June 17, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

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7. Old Business

a. Independence Day Celebration July 3 with CNBA
Mr. Marques shared there were 1,600 – 2,000 attendees who were at this event. Food Trucks, Apple Pie Contest, and more; it was another great event. The Colts Neck Police kept traffic moving. There were some delays as people were giving donations before they parked their cars. It was suggested to add an ATM machine next year, many vendors accepted cash only. The Fireworks were not supposed to start 15 minutes early, the Colts Neck Community Band were playing and had to adjust their playing with fireworks. Mr. Marques stated it would be interesting to see how much it would cost to run the event. Many groups donated their time to the event, including the Police. Ms. Kronstedt added it was a great event and well done. Mr. O'Conner parked at Cedar Drive Middle School and asked if those cars were part of the attendee total. Mr. Marques replied no, those numbers were not part of the numbers shared earlier as there were no parking attendants at that location. Mr. O'Conner added cars were also parked on the grass too.

b. National Night Out, August 6th
The Colts Neck Police Department with the Colts Neck Alliance will be sponsoring this event at Bucks Mill Park. Free food, soft drinks, ice cream and more will be part of the evening. Mr. Marques checked field use schedules to ensure there will be no sporting activities conflicting with the event. Chairman Cantalupo asked is National Night Out being advertised. Mr. Marques replied yes, the event is on the Township website and will be on the electronic signs around the Township. Mr. Cantalupo added many people do not know the meaning of the event; residents of populated towns/cities have a better understanding of the event. He suggested Mr. Marques could start with educating the campers and their families. Ask the Chief or a few Police officers to come to summer camp and share information about the event. This would be a good start to sharing the meaning of the event. Committeeman Viola shared National Night Out was created to help local law enforcement bridge directly to communities. Mr. McNally noted a great idea to make it clear to the community. Mr. Marques did send a summer camp email blast to parents about the event. Mr. Maguire suggested posting on social media too. Ms. Kronstedt suggested asking our Recreation summer intern send out teasers about the event via Instagram and Facebook.

c. Summer Camp Update
We have reached week four of camp, with 184 plus campers. Our trips have sold out, several trips have been extended for additional campers. Due to construction at Cedar Drive Middle School, week one of camp was held at the Community Center at Bucks Mill. The week worked out as well as it could

have, and the weather was not too hot. Children enjoyed the pavilion for lunchtime. Week two we moved to Cedar Drive Middle School. The school was closed on July 5 for an extended July 4th holiday. Camp was held at Bucks Milll. Mr. Marques arranged for buses to pick up campers to attend a movie at the Freehold theater. The next week Cedar Drive was being milled and paved. There were a few challenges with day-to-day roadwork changes. However, pick up and drop off went well. Everyone is enjoying the camp. Mr. Wild asked how many campers attended in 2023. Mr. Marques replied 160. Mr. Wild asked if Mr. Marques was at the camp each day. Mr. Marques explained there are two Supervisors, both teachers, along with two Assistant Supervisors, a Trip Coordinator, Outdoor Coordinator, and Art Supervisor. In addition to twenty plus Counselors and CITs. Plus, Pat our Security Guard who works at the school during the school year. Occasionally, school Administrators are at the school too. Mr. Maguire shared the intern hired is doing a good job with posting on social media. Mr. Marques added residents continue to sign up, we have 145 followers.

d. Big Brook Update

Mr. Marques reported we have discontinued requiring permits for large groups. The Preserve is temporarily closed, with enter at your own risk signage. He explained permits were required for larger groups. We did not want more than one large group in the Preserve the same day. Mr. Cantalupo noted there was a bad storm on Sunday and many trees were damaged in the Hillsdale area. Mr. Marques will walk through Big Brook to determine any damage.

e. Sounds of Summer Concert Series

Mr. Marques stated the concerts are held Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, the last show will be on August 29. He encourages everyone to come out for the shows. Last Thursday there was a nice breeze blowing off the pond. He mentioned there is shade available once the sun starts to drop after 7:00 pm. Mr. Cantalupo asked about attendance. Mr. Marques shared 2 or 3 weeks ago we had fifty attendees, now we have sixty-five. Many who are walking around Town Hall stop and stay to listen to the music. We have the Beatles, Classic Rock coming up. There has been something for everyone. Mr. Wild sat in the shade to enjoy the concert. He noted the band was thirty yards away. The band needs to be in the shade too. It was a nice backdrop with the sun setting. He suggested in the future having attendees sit closer. It was noted that years ago, the bands played from the Town Hall steps with the pond in the background.

f. Fields and Parks Update

Mr. Marques stated we have multiple rentals and usage of the fields.

He will resend the Stewards of the Park assignments and asks everyone to walk in their assigned area monthly or every other month. Please email any concerns you find at our assigned park/preserve. He has received helpful feedback from Ms. Kronstedt about Laird Road and Ms. Sullivan regarding Bucks Mill trails.

8. New Business

a. Senior Update
Mr. Marques provided an overview of upcoming trips. He reminded the committee the Senior Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am. They also have interesting speakers. Committeeman Viola noted new Police Chief Devito attended the July meeting.

b. Campout/Movie Night
This event is in the planning stages. The event is scheduled for September 28 on the grass near the Annex Town Hall. Attendees may bring their own tents. It will be a fun night under the stars. Chairman Cantalupo attended a past camp out with his daughter. Committeeman Viola added for previous campouts the Boy Scouts got permission for a bon fire. It was added some parents did stay with their children overnight.

c. Upcoming Fall Events
Mr. Marques asked the committee to share future event ideas. The Polo Event on September 8th, sponsored by the Colts Neck Business Association and the Halloween Hayride on October 19 (rain date October 20) sponsored by the Historical Preservation Committee, followed by the Holiday Tree Lighting on December 7. Discussion continued related to event ideas, it was suggested the committee could build something off the hayride at Bucks Mill to enhance the event. Suggestions included a scarecrow contest and pumpkin pie contest. Mr. Cantalupo will speak to Mary, who is on the Historical Preservation Committee, tomorrow about opportunities. Mr. Kronstedt suggested social media postings for kids. She also added setting up a temporary area parents could have family photos taken for a fee. Create a painted Colts Neck Sign too. Discussion continued about getting the word out for events. Committee Viola noted the QR code is as visible as it can be, and the Township encourages all residents to sign up and use it. He will share the number of users. Ms. Kronstedt stated the QR code is very convenient.

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. 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