COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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 June 17, 2024. at 7:00 pm via Zoom. A Legal Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press on June 11, 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. Garito, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Sikorskas
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Montalvo, Ms. Kronstedt, Mr. McNally, Mr. O'Connor
Public Present:	Mr. Alan Ryan, Secretary CNFD # 2

5. **Discussion Items**:

Committeeman Viola thanked Mr. Marques and Ms. Byrne for the behind scenes work they provided for the Memorial Day Parade. On June 26 at 4:00 pm Police Chief Santucci will walk out of the police station and into retirement. If you are available, please stop by and wish him good luck. The July 10 Township meeting will start at 5:00 pm to swear in new Police Chief DeVito. We had our Affordable Housing meeting on May 22, the meeting was lightly attended. The Township provided an update to all who attended.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Cantalupo called for comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to approve the May 20, 2024, minutes. On a motion by Mr. Wild, Mr. Maguire seconded. Chairman Cantalupo stated meeting minutes are approved.

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7. Old Business

a. Memorial Day Parade

Chairman Cantalupo asked for comments. Committee Viola noted we continue to preserve the ceremony and parade. Our new Recreation Director did a great job. Mr. Marques appreciated Committee Viola's comments. He stated the parade was a wonderful day for the community to come together. Heyers Mill Road looked great with all the flags out. All of the groups he worked with were enthusiastic to be part of the parade. He thanked Brocks Farm for use of their wagons and Pebble Creek Golf Course for donating use of their golf carts. The speeches from Mr. Cantalupo were great, as were the Grand Marshal and community religious representatives. It was a wonderful day! Mr. Wild added Mr. Marques was like a "good umpire" he was not noticed but kept everything moving. His only comment was that some children had their feelings hurt, as they could not participate in the bicycle contest. Ms. Kronstedt had submitted comments to Mr. Marques noting we need more inclusion of children. He is looking to add strollers, wheelchairs and younger children next year. Mr. Marques also plans to have a new PA system for announcements. Ms. Sullivan suggested renaming the event "decorate your wheels". Mr. Cantalupo stated it was a seamless transition having new Director Marques planning the parade. Mr. Cantalupo thanked Allan Ryan and his wife Dina for serving the hotdogs. It did start to rain a bit at that point, but the Firehouse did a great job. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the Gravesite ceremony was exceptional. Chairman Cantalupo did a great job. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there were a way to keep some of the people at the ceremony, as they are missing the point of the day. Maybe have a louder sound system to keep everyone's attention. We will revisit these comments at our February and March meetings. Mr. Marques asked for input on the shuttle. There were no comments. Ms. Sullivan did note as the Trail Riders were heading back on Heyers Mill Road to Town Hall, a few cars were driving behind the horses. This year they had two young children riding in the parade Ms. Sullivan shared the children were recognized along the parade route and received many cheers. The group coped with the cars. Mr. Marques asked what we can do to eliminate the situation. He suggested maybe have someone in a golf cart escort the Trail Riders back to Town Hall. Yes, that would help, Ms. Sullivan added. Mr. Sikorskas noticed people were standing in the back during the ceremony. There was a big space between the chairs and the road. How could we get those people closer so they could hear the speeches. It was mentioned to have a louder PA system. Chairman Cantalupo thanked Mr. Maguire for providing bags of potato chips at the Firehouse. Committeeman Viola noted the flags will stay up on Heyers Mill Road until July 4. They looked great on Memorial Day.

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b. Summer Camp Update
Mr. Marques stated 175 campers are signed up for camp. We have many returning counselors. We have promoted some counselors to Supervisory positions. We have twenty-four new Counselor/CITs applications. We are finalizing employment paperwork. Many of our great trips are sold out. We expect to have a fun and safe summer.

c. Big Brook Preserve Update
The Preserve is temporarily closed. On Wednesday, Mr. Marques and Mr. Bader, Director of Public Works, will be walking the area and marking off dangerous areas. Chairman Cantalupo added over the weekend the Preserve was busy. Mr. Marques said when people call the office, we do tell them the Preserve is closed and suggest alternatives such as Big Brook at Marlboro on Boundary Road and Poricy Park in Middletown. We will continue to monitor the Preserve.

d. Fishing Deby
Mr. Marques reported forty-nine participants, plus parents, there were 100 people in attendance. Double what was last year. The winner won most fish caught with 23 fish. Others caught a variety of fish including Bass, Bluegill, and Pike, with a few turtles caught too. Mr. Marques gave a shout out to the Police Benevolent Association for providing prizes, trophies and bait. Several of the Police officers were in attendance. 2nd place winner with ten fish and 3rd place awards to most unusual catch and smallest fish. The Pike was 14 ½ “, the Pike weighed the most, followed by the Bass at 14 lbs. Ms. Sullivan noted it was a great event for the Town.

e. Sounds of Summer Concert Series
Mr. Marques stated we had Concert # 2 last Thursday, this week will be our 3rd Concert with the Last Whippoorwill Blue Grass Band, 7:00 pm - Pondside. Mr. Marques asked for feedback and improvements from Mr. Garito and Mr. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Fitzpatrick shared the first concert with Joe Hess was great, there was a threat to the weather, but it cleared. We had about forty-five attendees. We need to make announcements when the next show is with the name of the band. The last show was the Monmouth Symphony Brass Band who took a break. He noticed some attendees left the concert during the break. We will be sure to explain to the upcoming bands there are no breaks it is a straight 90-minute set. Concerts are advertised in local magazines, fifteen posters were posted around town, concerts are in the monthly Senior Newsletter. Mr. Fitzpatrick shared his wife will start promoting the shows on social media. Word of mouth is the best advertisement. Mr. Garito added, Mr. Fitzpatrick summed everything up nicely. He added he did not see the

concert on the electric board last week. The first concert was on the board. The Fishing Derby was on the board. It would be ideal to have the electric board at the corner of 537 and Rt. 34, Huddys or Delicious Orchards. Those locations would be more effective. Mr. Sikorskas suggested having the sign at the old Beckers store. Committeeman Viola shared the band names are advertised on the Township website under News and Notice.

f. Website/Social Media
Mr. Marques continues to add recreation activities onto the Township website. Committeeman Viola confirmed News and Notifications are updated. And everyone is asking residents to sign up via the QR code. It was suggested to have the QR code appear in the Senior Newsletters. Mr. Marques explained he has hired a summer intern to promote and enhance our online presence, beginning with promoting the Township website, creating a Facebook page and Instagram account. We have 101 followers to date. Mr. Sikorskas asked if she will be posting on "next door". Chairman Cantalupo shared an update of 103 followers.

g. Field and Parks Update
Mr. Marques asked the committee to advise if they see any issues in the parks or fields. He has worked with DPW to clean out a snack shed and a trailer at Cedar Drive Middle School. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted Mr. Bader, Director of Department of Public Works assisted in cleaning Schlesinger Preserve by picking up debris in a timely manner. Ms. Sullivan reminded the committee that the trail marker project at Bucks Mill is not complete. The red, green, blue and yellow trails are difficult to follow. If someone could investigate the trails, perhaps someone could contact Ken Olsen who was working on the trails prior to his retirement last year. A local Boy Scout troop could help, she added the Trail Riders would like to be involved in the project. Mr. Olsen did a great job widening the trails last year.

8. New Business

a. Independence Day Celebration
Mr. Marques explained because of the traffic at last years celebration, the plan is to advertise cars arrive before 8:30 pm. The parking will be closed at that time. This will prevent heavy traffic in advance. The event will be from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm.

b. Senior Update
Mr. Sikorskas provided the clubs upcoming trips: Papermill Playhouse for Beautiful, a story about Carole King, July 2 Surflight Theater on LBI for South Pacific, 9/7 a visit to Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel with lunch at a nearby

Vietnamese restaurant. A big trip to Newport, R.I. 9/3-6, 10/14 a Hudson River Fall Foliage Sail & Rail trip, 11/7 Deal-Axelrod Theater for Fiddler on the Roof, 11/19 and 11/20 overnight for two shows in Lancaster PA.

c. Battle of Monmouth LAX Tournament
Mr. Marques shared on June 9 over 1,000 children/families attended the lacrosse tournament at Bucks Mill Park and Cedar Drive. It was a well-run event. Mr. Marques advised local businesses prior to the event to prepare for an increase in customers looking to purchase food and beverages. Mr. Marques noted tournament organizers did a nice job cleaning the parks after the tournament. Mr. Fitzpatrick was at the event, as his grandson played in the tournament. He stated it was great event.

d. National Night Out
On August 6 the Colts Neck Police will host the event at Bucks Mill Park. Ice Cream, Touch a Truck and other activities will be on hand. Families are encouraged to attend the event.

9. Comments from the Public
Mr. Ryan sated the Memorial Parade went well. Thank you to Mr. Maguire for providing bags of potato chips. Mr. Ryan had no complaints about the event, it was all good. Please let him know if there are any suggestions for next year.

10. Adjournment
As there was no further business, Chairman Cantalupo called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sulivan made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. Chairman Cantalupo adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Sincerely,
Barbara Byrne
Secretary