COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026

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

2. 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 Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times on January 9, 2026, stating that a Regular Meeting of the Colts Neck Township Recreation Committee would be held on February 17, 2026, 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:	Chairman Montalvo, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. McNally, Mr. Garito, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Sikorskas, Mr. Williams, Ms. Kronstedt and Township Liaison Mayor Viola
Also Present:	Mr. Marques, Director Recreation and Parks, Ms. Byrne, Administrative Assistant Recreation and Parks
Absent:	Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Wild
Public Present:	Alan Ryan

5. **Discussion Items**

Mayor Viola stated the Governing Body will introduce the 2026 budget tomorrow at 4:30 pm. They will then adopt the budget after their review at the April 29th Township meeting. The Township is working through Round 3 of Housing with objectors. Mayor Viola met Congressman Smith in Washington DC to discuss a developer's plan for Wellspring Farms property which backs up to Earle. Judge Alito is reviewing sixty-two NJ communities fighting against their Fair Share responsibilities.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Montalvo asked for comments to the January 20, meeting minutes. With no comments, Chairman Montalvo asked Ms. Byrne for a roll call to approve. Mr. Maguire, Ms. Kronstedt and Mr. Williams abstained as they were not in attendance at the January 20, 2026, meeting. All others approved the January minutes. Mr. Montalvo asked for a motion to approve, Ms. Sullivan made

a motion to approve, and Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. The January 20th meeting minutes were approved.

7. **Old Items**

   a. Park Stewards
   Mr. Marques asked the committee to take a walk at their assigned park/preserve. Even though its Winter the more eyes on the parks the better. Mr. O'Conner asked who he should ask about scheduling a clean-up at Five Point Park. He is planning a cleanup with Colts Neck High School students. Mr. Marques stated please call him to schedule a clean-up.

   b. Parks, Fields, and Facilities Upgrades
   Warmer weather is ahead, Mr. Marques noted. Spring/Summer will be busy with various groups at Bucks Mill. For example, Scouts, Baseball, Soccer, and Cheer. The Sports Foundation may be adding tackle football to the list of sports. Mr. Montalvo asked Mr. Marques if he foresees a delay in opening sports fields due to current weather conditions. Mr. Marques stated fields should be open on time. Mr. Marques confirmed Mr. O'Connor's question about why Five Point Park is closed. It is because the parking lot does not get plowed in winter months.

   c. Monmouth/CN 250 Programing
   The festivities kick off on Sunday, with a sit-down dinner and dancing with George and Martha Washington at the Colts Neck Inn. Attendees may dress in period clothes. Laird and Company will provide period cocktails. A variety of foods from that era will be served. Check the Colts Neck Business Association website for ticket information. On Wednesday, May 6, a Barn Tour is scheduled, details are coming soon. Memorial Day Parade will include soldiers in full artillery attire, including a musket and a cannon. Al and Janine Yodakis will provide a fife and drum. The Colts Neck ROTC will also be involved in this event. On July 3 Fireworks at Bucks Mill, 9/11 25th anniversary will take place this year. There will also be local school events for Monmouth/CN 250. There will be more updates to follow with the happenings in town.

   d. 2026 Planning, Projects, and Events
   Mr. Marques announced we added a new Line Dance class taught by resident, Lisa Panicali. The class is already quite popular with twenty-two attendees. Mr. Marques noted enhancements to most events will be made in support of Monmouth/CN250. The large project this year will be building bathrooms at Five Point Park.

   e. Senior Update
   Mr. Sikorskas passed out copies of the February Senior Newsletter referring to their activities and trips. He explained Laura Montalbano does a wonderful job putting together the newsletter. In January they had 108 attending their

luncheon. The Colts Neck Inn had to add more tables to accommodate everyone. The club plans to have a guest speaker at each meeting. New trips include a guided tour and lunch at the Hindu Temple in Robbinsville in April. In May they head to Atlantic City for a musical tribute to Celine Dion. In March they will go to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see The Sunshine Boys, followed by lunch. Also planned in March is a visit to No Limits Café in Red Bank. This café trains and employs adults with Intellectual Disabilities.

8. **New Items**

a. Easter Egg Hunt
This event will be on March 28 at 9:30 pm at Fire House # 1. The rain date will be April 4, the day before Easter. Mr. Marques noted this event is well organized with children running everywhere to gather eggs. We will have the Golden Egg prizes and gift baskets. Delicious Orchards donates donuts. It is a great event. The Woman's Auxiliary also participates by providing light refreshment.

b. Spring Kickoffs – Sports Foundation
Mr. Willams shared Flag Football will close when sign-ups reach 350 children. American Youth Football is putting together tackle football for ages fourteen and under. Lacrosse is open as is travel soccer registrations. Younger children's Flag Football (boys and girls) and Basketball both have three hundred signed up. Mr. McNally asked can children play both tackle football and flag football. Mr. Williams replied it is possible for children to play both. He added that with new families moving to town, kindergarten and first grade programs have large sign-up numbers.

c. Summer Camp Update
We plan to open camp registration in early March, with trip registration in April. Two Supervisors are returning so far. Late Spring we will begin the hiring process. We plan to hire as many returnees as possible. Mr. Montalvo asked if there is a turnover for CITs and Counselors. Mr. Marques explained we hire top down; we will not know about turnover for this year yet.

d. Sound of Summer Update
This year there will be thirteen bands. Mr. Marques stated like last year, we anticipate Brian Kirk and the Jirks will be kicking off the 2026 series. The committee is investigating organizations and/or businesses to sponsor concerts.

e. Memorial Day Parade
The parade will kick off at 10:30 am start, John Luckinbill has committed to return. Also, a fife and drums as part of the Monmouth/250 celebration. Mr. Marques stated John Sauter of CNFD suggested a 1-mile fun run/walk prior to the parade. The run would begin at Town Hall to Memorial Park. He took part in a 1-mile run or walk on 4th of July at Ft. Ticonderoga, NY. It was a

community event, as Memorial Day parade viewers were lined up along the parade route the community got to cheer on the participants of the run/walk too. He thought Colts Neck could do the same 1-mile event. Participants would have bib numbers that would track their time. Mr. Marques asked the committee for feedback. It was suggested to start at Memorial Park and end the run at Town Hall. Some children may be marching in the parade and may need time to change into scout uniforms and prepare to march in the parade. We will also have fife and drums, cannon artillery, and ROTC in attendance. Mr. Ryan shared with the 250 anniversary being a special year, we want to be prepared for the celebration. We will increase the number of hotdogs and beverages at the Fire House. Local families may stay in town, for the parade to experience a real Americana Memorial Day Parade. The Firehouse will be prepared. Mr. Marques shared the Township will be putting up 1776 American flags at the entrance to Town Hall and along the parade route. With the race beginning 10:15 am or sooner, parade 10:30 am and arrival at Firehouse 12:30 pm. Mr. Montalvo noted that children may be tired at the cemetery. It will be difficult to keep the ceremony quiet. Ms. Sullivan suggested giving guest speakers a time limit ahead of time. It was noted it is hard to hear guest speakers if you had to stand towards the road. Mr. Marques will speak to CSAV about placing speakers near the road. Mr. Williams volunteered to pull a third wagon with his truck, for children to return to Town Hall after the run. Mr. Montalvo suggested the ice cream truck park near the ceremony to keep children engaged.

Will there be a water station for the run. Mr. Ryan added they did have water bottles at the cemetery/ceremony in the past. Mr. Marques added we can discuss Memorial Day at our March and April meetings. Mr. Ryan added this year the 250 anniversary is important, and the Fire House will be ‘all on” for the event.

Mr. Marques stated he will be attending a 2-day NJ Recreation and Parks Conference in Atlantic City next week. Also attending are turf companies, score board vendors, sports/camp uniforms, to Recreation software and precast bathrooms. It is a good opportunity to network with other local Recreation Departments throughout the state. Mr. Montalvo asked about precast bathrooms. Mr. Marques explained a slab is put in place, pipes are installed; the bathroom unit is retrofitted onto the slab. Mr. O’Connor added most National parks have precast bathroom facilities.

10. Comments from the Public

Mr. Montalvo asked for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Mr. O’Connor made a motion, Mr. McNally seconded. Mr. Ryan discussed Memorial Day Parade during the meeting and had no further comments. Mr. Montalvo asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting; Mr. Maguire made a motion and Mr. McNally seconded.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Montalvo asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Maguire made a motion and Mr. McNally seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday March 16, at 7:00 pm.