

COLTS NECK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008
5:30 PM, TOWNSHIP HALL

In Attendance:

Lillian G. Burry, Chairperson
Ellen Terry, Secretary
Linda Dickinson-Pancila
David Engebretson
Mary Fournier
Harold Kilbride
Lucy Knipfing
Patricia Mitchell
Betty Reilly
Cathi Trost
Louise Whitney

Absent:

James Schatzle, Township Committee Liaison (excused)
Vincent Cerullo (excused)
Jane Davis (excused)
Jennifer Engel
Toni Morello
Ann Rippa

1. Chairperson Burry called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, stating "The notice requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied by forwarding a news release to the Asbury Park Press on January 4, 2008, stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee would be held on February 20, 2008 at 5:30 PM, at Town Hall. The notice requirements have been posted on the Township bulletin board and a copy is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk." Mrs. Burry then led the Salute to the Flag.
2. On a motion by Mr. Kilbride and seconded by Mrs. Trost, the minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting were accepted as submitted.
3. Mrs. Burry introduced a new Committee member, Lucy Knipfing. Mrs. Knipfing showed her home on the House Tour in a previous year. Mrs. Burry then introduced the guests.

Maggie Osmulski and Anita O'Malley, leaders of Girl Scout Troop 1128, introduced the scouts who accompanied them, and presented a proposal for development of a brochure for children highlighting "Colts Neck's Place in History." The Scouts are working to earn the Bronze Award, the highest award attainable at their grade level. For this they must complete a unique project that displays leadership skills and a commitment to the community. The Scouts visited the Montrose School and several other historic sites in Colts Neck last year that were suggested by Mrs. Burry. Mrs. Dickinson invited the Scouts to assist in installing and caring for landscaping at the school.

Joe and Gail Iola, and their attorney, John Giunco, appeared to seek support from the Committee for a variance from the Colts Neck Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. & Mrs. Iola purchased a 9.44 acre parcel of property at 139 Hockhockson Road from a developer who is now deceased. Mr. Iola stated that the developer represented to him that he would be permitted to build a second dwelling, and continue to retain the existing older dwelling. Construction of the newer dwelling having been completed, the Colts Neck development regulations require demolition of the older house. In defense of their position, Mr. Giunco presented a Historic Sites Inventory completed by Gail Hunton of the Monmouth County Park System. Ms. Hunton notes that the main block of the house was constructed circa 1835 by John Wainwright, but that a smaller wing and lean-to have architectural details that indicate they may predate the main block. She states that "This house is part of a small group of rare Dutch-framed houses in Monmouth County that are significant for their Dutch framing and association with the early Dutch settlement of Colts Neck and Monmouth County...(and)...only about twelve of these Dutch houses survive today." Earlier failure to recognize the historic significance of the house may be due to the architectural inconsistency of a later addition, and vinyl siding covering the early wood clapboard siding, which remains in good condition.

Mr. Giunco requested that the Committee express the historic value of the house to the Zoning Board. Mr. Iola stated his intention to restore the house in the future. Mrs. Burry stated that the Committee is sensitive to the historic aspects and will make that known to the Zoning Board.

4. Mrs. Burry requested nominations for Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Mrs. Trost offered for nomination Mrs. Burry for Chair, Mr. Kilbride for Vice-Chair, and Ms. Terry for Secretary. Mrs. Whitney seconded the nomination. All were in favor.
5. Mrs. Burry reported she has appointed Ms. Terry to the Monmouth County Historic Commission. Ms. Terry will serve with Mr. Kilbride. As they are not permitted to represent the Committee before the Commission, Mrs. Trost has agreed to serve as administrator of historic preservation grants, and will sign the grant applications. The presentation of grants will be held at the Hall of Records on February 26 at 7:30 PM.

Mrs. Burry announced that this year is the 325th anniversary of the establishment of Monmouth County. The kick-off for the celebration will be held on March 13 at the Hall of Records. Actors portraying George Washington and Molly Pitcher will be present. The County Archives has made available to municipalities space for their historic documents. The documents will be copied, and the copies will be made available to the public. The municipalities will retain ownership of the documents.

Mrs. Burry reviewed Committee programs for this year. Mrs. Miller on Mine Brook Road has volunteered to host the Spring Reception. Mrs. Burry will call Mrs. Miller to confirm April 27 for the event. Mrs. Dickinson, Mrs. Knipping and Mrs. Mitchell will coordinate the event. Mrs. Reilly reported that she has arranged for an actor who will portray General Von Steuben for the sixth grade class at the Cedar Drive School. The cost is \$450.00 plus \$65.00 travel expenses. Mrs. Burry will coordinate the date and time with the school.

Mrs. Burry announced that the House Tour will be held on Saturday, October 4. The event is listed on the schedule of events for the 325th anniversary of Monmouth County. She already has a few houses to show. She will ask Mrs. Engel and Mrs. Morello to co-chair the event, and is relying on Mrs. Davis to produce the program, as she has in past years. Mrs. Dickinson offered to help with the event, and to put her own house, which has won two awards from the Monmouth County Historic Commission, on the tour again. Also in October, the Committee will participate in Monmouth County Archives and History Day.

Mrs. Burry has spoken with Maggie Tripold of the Reformed Church about a date for the Williamsburg Christmas celebration. The date should conflict with the Township tree lighting, when the Navesink Brass Band plays, so that the court room is open all afternoon for performances by the Jubilation Choir and the Bell Choir.

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Mrs. Trost will make arrangements with Rev. Scott Brown of the Reformed Church and with Fay Mavroukas of the Colts Neck Inn for a date for installation of historic plaques and photo opportunity with Mrs. Burry. Additional historic plaques will be put on hold for another year.

Restoration of the Montrose School will be on-going. The focus this year will be on interior work and landscaping. Next would be exterior work. The siding four feet up should be replaced and wooden gutters added to avoid the splash-back that is damaging the siding. Mrs. Burry suggested shutters be replaced. The slate boards have been installed. The walls and ceiling have been painted. A box has been constructed over the electric panel so that a picture may be hung there. The contractor has reported that the siding is getting dry rot and that installation of a humidifier should be considered. Mrs. Whitney stated that the furnace in the attic was installed by Duckett & Laird. The contractor also reported problems with the security system and with the new front door, which is already failing.

6. On a motion by Mr. Kilbride and seconded by Mrs. Dickinson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 5:30 PM at Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary