

COLTS NECK HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
5:30 PM, TOWNSHIP HALL

In Attendance:

Lillian G. Burry, Chairperson
James Schatzle, Township Committee Liaison
Ellen Terry, Secretary
Vincent Cerullo
Jane Davis
Linda Dickinson-Pancila
David Engebretson
Jennifer Engel
Harold Kilbride
Lucy Knipfing
Patricia Mitchell
Toni Morello
Cathi Trost
Louise Whitney

Absent:

Mary Fournier
Betty Reilly (excused)
Ann Rippa (excused)

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 8, 2008, stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee would be held on September 2, 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 Mrs. Trost and seconded by Mrs. Whitney, the minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting were accepted as submitted.
3. Mr. Schatzle made the suggestion that a sub-committee attend a Township Committee meeting to inform them of the progress made on the Montrose School. Mrs. Burry accepted the invitation and a notice will be sent to members of this committee requesting their attendance at the meeting.

Mrs. Burry reported that the 2008 Jane Clayton Award will be presented to Lydia Wikoff at Monmouth County Archives and History Day. The award is given each year to a person who has made an outstanding contribution of time, effort and knowledge to historic preservation. Mrs. Wikoff, is descended from a long-time Monmouth County family, as was her late husband. Among her many and diverse accomplishments, Mrs. Wikoff has been active in the preservation of Monmouth Battleground, directed the restoration of the Englishtown Inn, where George Washington and his generals met prior to the Battle of Monmouth, helped continue historic traditions at Olde Tennent Church, which served as a hospital during the battle, and was instrumental in having published *Horse and Buggy Boyhood*, a book about farm life in Monmouth County at the turn of the 20th century. Mrs. Burry reported that "A Stitch in Time" will be performed at the Colts Neck Reformed Church on Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 p.m. The price is \$10.00 in advance, or \$15.00 at the door.

Mrs. Burry reported that she is working with Jim Truncer of the Monmouth County Park System to permit the Fitch House that is being restored in Dorbrook Park to be added to the House Tour. The indoor renovations are not complete, so only the outside would be available. Mrs. Burry suggested that an interpreter might assist the tour, explaining how the restoration is being accomplished. Cider and donuts could be served on the porch. Mr. Kilbride remarked that the foundation is local fieldstone, and the original windows (still existing on sides and rear) are six-over-six. He believes the house dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. Gail Hunton of the Park System dates it to 1825. He stated that it was a Covenhoven house. He stated that the interior is inaccurately furnished in 1870s style. Mrs. Whitney remarked that it was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Mr. Cerullo said that Johnny-on-the-Spot would be willing to donate the interior mechanism for an outhouse, but Mr. Kilbride stated that the existing outbuilding is a former smokehouse, not a former privy.

Mr. Schatzle suggested that a good alternative for a "fifth house" would be the recently repainted meeting room at Township Hall, as he believes most residents have never visited there. Mrs. Burry suggested that a mock town meeting might be in progress, or, because the building is modeled after the courthouse at Williamsburg, a trial could be held. Mr. Schatzle announced that he purchased at a garage sale the corporate seal of the former Atlantic Township, dated 1847. Although the seal works well, the outside is rusty. He will investigate alternatives of leaving it as is, or having the rust removed. Mrs. Burry suggested that ultimately it be placed at the Montrose School.

4. Mrs. Engel exhibited a printed draft of the House Tour program. Using the ball field across the road from the Russo house for parking would require the services of an off-duty police officer at \$50.00 per hour. Mrs. Burry suggested that guests park around the corner on Big Beech Lane. Mrs. Morello has obtained plastic bags for shoes. The flowers have been ordered. Mrs. Engel will pick up the donated donuts and cider from Delicious Orchards. They are also donating ten apple pies for the luncheon. Mrs. Burry requested they be given an in-kind donation receipt for tax purposes. Mrs. Fournier has put in the order for the signs. The House Tour Committee will try to get the signs distributed next week. Mrs. Engel reported that publicity has been arranged with the Asbury Park Press, the Colts Neck Journal, the News-Transcript, and Jersey Shore magazine. Mrs. Burry will offer a free ticket to the Two River Times reporter. Mr. Engebretson suggested extending an invitation to the Garfield Township superintendent of schools and chair of the board of education, as the slate boards in the Montrose School were donated by them. He also offered to bring

equipment to the Montrose School and demonstrate chicken-farming techniques during the House Tour.

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5. Monmouth County Archives and History Day will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the main library in Manalapan. Mr. Engebretson, Mr. Kilbride, Mrs. Trost and Mrs. Whitney will sit with the Committee's display.
6. On a motion by Mrs. Engel and seconded by Mr. Kilbride, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 5:30 PM at Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary