

COLTS NECK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2013
5:30 PM, TOWNSHIP HALL

In Attendance:

Lillian G. Burry, Chairperson
Ellen Terry, Secretary
Susan Baker
Jane Davis
Mary Fournier
Harold Kilbride
Laura Kolnoski
Patricia Mitchell
Toni Morello
Maggie Osmulski
Ann Rippa
Frank Rizzuto

Absent:

Jim Schatzle, Township Committee Liaison (excused)
Patricia Eastman (excused)
Jennifer Engel
Cindy Feury (excused)
Louise Whitney (excused)

1. Mrs. 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 7, 2013, stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee would be held on May 5, 2013 at 5:30 PM, at the 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. Rizzuto and seconded by Mrs. Davis, the minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting were accepted as submitted.

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3. Mrs. Burry announced that Louise Whitney returned the co-signed check in the amount of \$2,027.00 from the Colts Neck Historical Society, for the roadside marker to be placed at The Old Grange. Mrs. Burry remarked that granges historically served as both social and political meeting centers for farmers. Mrs. Burry praised Mrs. Whitney's generosity and her historical foresight in providing for this memorial to a very important part of the Township's history.

Mrs. Burry announced that Chris Short, a resident of Colts Neck whose former residence was featured on a previous year's House Tour, has retired from his career as a trader, and followed his muse to start a roofing business, Short Slate. With 16 employees, the business specializes in slate roofs. Mr. Short has presented an offer to the Mrs. Burry replace the Montrose School roof with a new slate roof at no charge to the Township for materials or labor. The Committee was delighted to accept the offer, and Mrs. Kolnoski remarked that she would be able to write three separate Journal articles from this news.

Mrs. Burry reported that she attended a presentation to all three Colts Neck Schools, of national awards for nutrition and physical activity. The Colts Neck School District was one of only two in Monmouth County and three of only 60 in the State of New Jersey to receive the awards. All three principals were present at the ceremony. Principal Colin Rigby of the Middle School lavished praise on the appearance of the Gen. Ulysses Grant re-enactor. The Principal of the Primary School inquired whether it would be possible to extend the program to the Primary School. The possibility will be explored.

Mrs. Burry offered kudos to Mrs. Mitchell for a very successful Spring Reception. About 40 people attended. Mrs. Mitchell praised the Committee members for their help, as well as the cooperation of the Township Committee, Bob Bowden, and Beth Kara, who got a replacement of the damaged front door, and a flag hung, in time for the event. Lisa Laird's appearance, and her delivery of a speech about the history of Laird's, of which she is the ninth generation, was warmly received. The Laird family, and their business, have been in Colts Neck since the 17th century, and hold federal distillery license Number One. Mrs. Laird assured that the family, and their company, intend to remain an important part of the community.

Mrs. Burry reported that she later had occasion to meet with Ed Brock, who offered to plant a tree at the Montrose School, with a plaque, in memory of his grandson, who was an avid arborist.

4. Mrs. Burry reported that the owner of an exceptional home in Colts Neck is interested in showing her house on the House Tour, but wishes to leave her two great dane dogs unleashed. Mr. Rizzuto will offer the homeowner dog-sitting at his home during the Tour. Mrs. Burry will assume responsibility to work with the home owner. Besides this home, the Russos have agreed to show Black Swan Pond, and the Montrose School will be open. The owners of Old St. Mary's did not attend the reception, so Mrs. Morello and Mr. Rizzuto will contact them to request that they participate. Mrs. Burry remarked that Town Hall is not a stand-alone and inquired whether Bob Gassaway is still interested in displaying his model train layout. If he is not available, Mrs. Kolnoski stated that she and her husband would try to find another train layout. The House Tour will be held on Saturday, October 5.

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5. Mrs. Burry introduced Kathleen Walsh, who stated that she is the Scouting Commissioner for all Colts Neck Boy Scouts. Mrs. Walsh's son, John Patrick designed and installed the Colts Neck History Trail, consisting of a shorter 5.5 mile trail for walkers and a longer 11.3 mile trail for bicycle riders. The shorter trail has red markers and the longer trail has blue markers. John installed a sign in front of the Colts Neck Library, and drew two maps, that are available in the Library. Mrs. Burry was John's sponsor and provided him with valuable information that helped complete the project. Mrs. Walsh reported that the sign has disappeared from in front of the Library, and that Bob Bowden told her it had been removed due to graffiti, but that when she visited the Department of Public Works, she saw no graffiti. She now has possession of the sign. Mrs. Walsh also stated that two directional markers were removed by the D.P.W., another has disappeared, and one was hit by a car. Mrs. Burry suggested that a more permanent type of sign is needed, and the Committee discussed possibilities of obtaining same.
6. On a motion by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Kolnoski, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 5:30 PM at Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary