

COLTS NECK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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

In Attendance: Ellen Terry, Secretary
Susan Baker
Patricia Eastman
Jennifer Engel
Mary Fournier
Harold Kilbride
Patricia Mitchell
Ann Rippa
Frank Rizzuto

Absent: Lillian G. Burry, Chairperson (excused)
Jim Schatzle, Township Committee Liaison (excused)
Jane Davis (excused)
Cindy Feury (excused)
Laura Kolnoski (excused)
Toni Morello (excused)
Maggie Osmulski
Louise Whitney (excused)

1. Mr. Kilbride 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 March 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.” Mr. Kilbride then led the Salute to the Flag.
2. On a motion by Mrs. Engel and seconded by Mr. Rizzuto, the minutes of the February 5, 2013 meeting were accepted, with the correction that Mrs. Eastman was absent and excused.
3. Mr. Kilbride referred to the agenda prepared by Chairperson Lillian Burry, and announced that the appearance of the Ulysses S. Grant re-enactor at the Cedar Drive School was a resounding success. A possible appearance by a Philip Freneau re-enactor is being considered for this autumn. Mrs. Burry participated in the Monmouth County Historical Preservation Commission awarding of grants to several historic sites. Mr. Kilbride announced that Mrs. Whitney has volunteered to acquire a donation from the Colts Neck Historic Society for a roadside sign. Mrs. Burry recommended a bronze plaque at The Old Grange (now the Colts Neck Recreation building).

COLTS NECK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

March 5, 2013

PAGE 2

4. Ms. Terry introduced Lisa Laird, who attended the meeting to inquire whether the Committee would be supportive of the purchase by Laird's Distillery of the Bremer home at Heyers Mill Road and Merchants Way. The property was originally owned by the Laird family. The barn, which is in need of extensive repairs, was built in the 1700's and was the home of Samuel Laird and his family of nine children. The house was built in 1861, and is in excellent condition. Currently owned by Linda Bremer, it has been shown on the Annual House Tour. In order to justify the corporate purchase of this home, it needs to be of use for corporate purposes, and Ms. Laird hopes to seek a variance from the Township. The property is zoned residential at present. Ms. Laird suggested that it might be used for educational purposes or as a visitors center for their customers, as well as a repository for historic Laird artifacts. She doubted it would be used full time, as that would require additional staff. A lively conversation ensued. Mr. Rizzuto suggested that a use variance would spell out exactly what uses would be permitted on the property.
5. Mrs. Mitchell reported regarding progress on the Spring Reception, which is being held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 28, at the Montrose School. Mrs. Fournier, Mrs. Morello and Ms. Rippa are assisting Mrs. Mitchell. The invitations are to be sent out next week. Mr. Rizzuto reminded Mrs. Mitchell to include those people whose homes are being targeted for the House Tour. He will have the benches removed from the School, and stored by the Department of Public Works. Mrs. Eastman will supply tables, complete with covers and skirts, for the refreshments. A sign-up for refreshments was passed around. Mrs. Engel has initiated inquiries with the Community Band for a trio or quartet to furnish musical entertainment. Mr. Kilbride reminded Mrs. Mitchell to check with Mrs. Burry regarding the alarm system. Mrs. Burry suggested a visitor, such as Lisa Laird, or a talk regarding the Phalanx Commune.
6. Mr. Rizzuto remarked that everyone on the Committee is a member of the House Tour Committee, as it will be necessary to have the assistance of all members. The Tour will be held on Saturday, October 5. Possible sites for the House Tour are old St. Mary's Church, Swan Pond Farm, Montrose School, Town Hall, and Long Lane Farm. Mr. Kilbride emphasized that all committee members must participate fully in ticket sales. Mrs. Feury and Mrs. Kolnoski are in charge of publicity. They intend to make extensive use of social media. Once the sites are finalized the early publicity should help with ticket sales.
7. On a motion by Mr. Rizzuto and seconded by Mrs. Fournier, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at 5:30 PM at Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary