

# COLTS NECK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011  
5:30 PM, TOWNSHIP HALL

**In Attendance:** Lillian G. Burry, Chairperson  
Ellen Terry, Secretary  
Jane Davis  
Patricia Eastman  
Mary Fournier  
Harold Kilbride  
Toni Morello  
Maggie Osmulski  
Ann Rippa  
Frank Rizzuto  
Louise Whitney

**Absent:** Ed Eastman, Township Committee Liaison  
Jennifer Engel  
Laura Kolnoski (excused)  
Lucy Lennox  
Patricia Mitchell

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 5, 2011, stating that a meeting of the Colts Neck Historical Preservation Committee would be held on June 14, 2011 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. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rizzuto, the minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were accepted.
3. Mrs. Burry introduced Mrs. Whitney’s daughter Susie who is visiting from California, and Michele Battista of the Ashley Lauren Foundation. Mrs. Burry announced that Dave Engebretson has resigned from the Committee, having recently been married and moved to Yardville. Mrs. Burry reported that the Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton re-enactors will perform a debate at the Cedar Drive Middle School on Thursday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Burry reminded Committee members that the Monmouth County Archives and History Day will be held on October 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mrs. Burry remarked that the Architecture Review Board was successful in recruiting new members via the Township web site.

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Mrs. Burry ceded the floor to Michele Battista. Mrs. Battista announced that in lieu of the annual apple and pumpkin festival, this year the Ashley Lauren Foundation is having a Barn & Winery Tour, followed by a barbeque and hoedown at Bucks Mill Park. The Foundation is a non-profit that assists families of children with cancer. The price of the tour is \$30, the barbeque and hoedown is \$25, and the combination is \$50. The tour will start from Bucks Mill Park at 12:30, and run for about four hours. They are requesting that members of the Committee accompany each bus and give a running commentary on historic sites along the route. However, the route as currently planned does not pass any historic sites. Mrs. Burry suggested providing them with Historic Colts Neck brochures.

4. Mrs. Osmulski has drafted a letter inviting private and parochial schools to visit the Montrose School. She intends to send the letter to Ranney School, St. Leo's, St. Benedict's, and St. Rose's. A positive aspect to hosting these schools is that they will provide the transportation for the visiting students.
5. Mrs. Burry reported that Mrs. Kolnoski has re-written the Historic Colts Neck brochure, and Mr. Kilbride is reviewing it for historical accuracy. It is almost ready to go to press.
6. Mrs. Burry opened a discussion regarding a possible late-autumn fund raising event. Among the suggestions were a performance of the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe, at the Montrose School, (decorated for Halloween), a hay ride, a bonfire, pumpkin carving and decorating and a costume contest. Mrs. Burry noted that there is no available parking at the school, and ticket control is necessary for any performance, and therefore a hay ride from Bucks Mill Park would be suitable for performance attendees, while other event celebrants could continue at the Park. She suggested that Tom Orgo has hay wagons. Mr. Rizzuto suggested that a port-a-potty be moved temporarily from Five Point Park to the Montrose School. Mrs. Burry called for a meeting of the sub-committee (Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Morello, Mrs. Engel, Ms. Lennox, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Osmulski and Mr. Rizzuto) on Saturday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m. to organize the event. Halloween falling on a Monday this year, Saturday, October 29 would be a suitable date, or Sunday, October 23.
7. Mrs. Whitney has conveyed a copy of the Thomas Robertson Co. estimates for the "Welcome to Colts Neck" signs to John Niemala of the Colts Neck Historical Society. At this time, Mrs. Burry had to leave for another meeting, and Mr. Kilbride took the chair.
8. Mr. Rizzuto presented a report regarding the Polhemus Family Burial Ground, located on the Cicalese property. He, Paul Fournier, and Dr. Richard Veit visited the property on July 15 and found many of the grave stones in a remarkable state of preservation, and many inscriptions still clearly incised into the stone, and most quite legible. The earliest stone observed was dated 1732. Dr. Veit advised that although there was nothing unique about the graves themselves, the site in its entirety is a fine example of a rural 18<sup>th</sup> century burial ground. Dr. Veit noted that the heavy tree cover could possibly have aided in the preservation of the grave stones by shielding them from the open weather. Mr. Rizzuto recommended that the site be partially cleared of undergrowth, possibly by a local Scout group, while allowing tree cover to remain. Not only does the tree cover aid in preservation of the grave stone, but also somewhat obscures the location of the site, and might potentially defer future vandalism.
9. On a motion by Mrs. Fournier and seconded by Mrs. Osmulski, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 5:30 PM at Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Terry, Secretary