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REPORT OF THE OAK GROVE FARM COMMISSION

2014 was a year of both successes and disappointments. The Oak Grove Farm Commission felt overlooked during the field advisory committees investigation into proposed new field construction at Oak Grove farm. During the field advisory committees planning process using CDM Smith as the Town of Millis' consultant the Commission received one visit from CDM Smith's lead consultant. And although we were always able to attend a fields advisory commission meeting and did receive emails concerning some aspects of the planning process not once did the Oak Grove Farm Commission receive an official invitation to sit down with the parties involved in discuss what we would like to see as far as new fields were concerned. The Oak Grove Farm Commission's plan was handed over to the fields advisory committee but to the best of our knowledge was never considered. The rest is history going down to a total failure at the fall 2014 town meeting.

During this process of uncertainty over who would be able to use the fields at Oak Grove based on rumors and accusations of mismanagement are 24 year relationship with the Millis black magic soccer club and John Smith soccer Academy came to an end. This was due to uncertainty over their ability to obtain playing time at Oak Grove. Both spring and fall soccer seasons did not generate our usual income. And we are forced to rely upon money that we have built up in our revolving account over the past 10+ years. We did raise the game fee for the Millis soccer club from \$10-\$20 a game. Many people voice the opinion that Oak Grove should be for Millis residents only.

Due to the finger-pointing, swirling rumors the inability of the Oak Grove Farm Commission to obtain credit to purchase fertilizer, grass seed and other field maintenance supplies no improvements were undertaken on the athletic fields at Oak Grove in 2014.

It was a goal to complete the the approved footbridge over the Brook at the north end of the farmhouse field. Our focus unfortunately was on what might happen at town meeting. The money that we had budgeted is still in our revolving fund and we are making plans for the construction as soon as we can in the spring or summer of 2015

We removed the last two large ash trees along Orchard Street and spent many hours cleaning up along the Orchard Street side of the farm. We also spent a great deal of time on trail maintenance around the entire trail system. This effort made Oak Grove attractive to the Millis High School to run to Cross country track meets in October. These two events were a highlight of our year. All the members of the Millis High School athletic family were very appreciative of our efforts.

Cornelius Monahan and his wife Amanda Bigelow of Bigelow farm saved the commission quite a bit of money by cutting and bailing hay from the field behind the farmhouse as well as the Ridge Street field. We are looking into entering an agreement to have them cut the fields on a no cost basis into the future.