

MINUTES
TOWN OF MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2014 ROOM 229 900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA
7:30 PM

ATTENDING:

James McKay

Andrea Wagner

Steve MacInnes

Sean Doherty

Charles Aspinwall, ex officio

Chuck Adelsberger

Eillish Corey,

Ian Meade

Kim Drake

CDM Smith

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and asked Mr. Adelsberger to update the committee on the progress of the project. Mr. Adelsberger responded that 440 responses have been made to the online survey. He has met with the Historical Commission today. Snow is off the main fields, and field test are scheduled for next week. CDM has looked at building a new baseball field with a synthetic turf which would take approximately five months to build.

CDM has looked at an 800 seat football field, 6 lane track, with the size of bleachers being a standard amount for a town our size. The filed would be lighted with six poles which would be energy efficient. Twenty six rest rooms would be require; perhaps could be waived down to 12. A lift would be required to get wheelchair users to the press box. One idea is for the TriCounty Regional Vocational technical school to build the concession stand and rest rooms.

The proposed baseball site is on and near the current Sisto field, necessitating a filed be built elsewhere for youth baseball; perhaps at Cassidy Farm. He noted that baseball fields are not subject to the same plumbing codes as the football field would be. He noted the walking trails have been added to the plans at Cassidy and oak Grove Farm. At Oak Grove Farm 2 soccer fields were added northwest of the farm house. He questioned whether the town should add a plan to pave Island Rd. as there will be an increase use of the Oak Grove Farm site. The committee expressed a concern with children crossing Exchange St.

Mr. McKay said he liked the layout of soccer fields at Oak Grove Farm (OGF), i.e. one 8 on 8 and one 11 on 11. He questioned whether the Conservation Commission needed to classify OGF as a previously disturbed area and what could be located within the 200 limit of the riverbank. He noted that these new fields at OGF could have an impact on the demand of use of the town park.

Mr. Adelsberger noted that earlier in the evening the Historical Commission indicated a preference for soccer fields and the location rather than baseball fields. He noted that a traffic plan or study should be done of whatever sites are chosen. At this point CDM thinks that only 1-2 baseball fields or one soccer field could be located at Cassidy. Relative to the Clyde Brown filed, a synthetic field could be a good option. A question was asked about run off from synthetic fields and he answered that there is less run off from synthetic fields than natural turf. This option however will not alleviate the high school use of the town park.

Mr. Adelsberger reviewed the cost difference of synthetic turf vs. natural turf. Synthetic turf has a lower cost per play, allows greater use, pulls pressure off other fields, and requires less maintenance than natural turf fields. The synthetic cost per play is \$202 over an eight year period, while grass is \$520 per play. The cost for a turf field is approximately \$300K - \$400K, while a synthetic field is \$800-\$900K. He noted that synthetic fields are safer as they do not compact like grass fields. The replacement cost of just the turf is approximately \$400K.

Mr. Aspinwall said that the selectmen's office could send out a letter to resident abutters to the various field site informing them of the public meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. McKay said he could get the signboard out on Main St.

Mr. Doherty noted that work at Cassidy would be necessary first in order to vacate Sisto field where the high school field could be located. Mr. Aspinwall said that perhaps funding would have to be secured in two phases, with one phase being for the Cassidy baseball & OGF soccer fields and the other for the football field/track & high school baseball field.

Mr. Meade said the growing period for the grass turf field affects availability. He suggested that a more detailed feasibility study of the larger project be done if they are selected for priority.

Mr. MacInnes said it makes sense to put a synthetic surface on the Clyde Brown School (CBS) field.

Mr. McKay made a motion at 10:10 PM to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Doherty.
Vote: unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles J. Aspinwall