

MINUTES
TOWN OF MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 10, 2014 ROOM 229 900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA
7:30 PM

ATTENDING:

James McKay

Andrea Wagner

Sean Doherty

Richard Nichols

Charles Aspinwall, ex officio

Chuck Adelsberger, CDM-Smith

Eillish Corey, CDM-Smith

Doug Riley, Finance Committee/resident

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and asked Mr. Adelsberger to update the committee on the progress of the project. Mr. Adelsberger reported that Jim McKay, Sean Doherty and he participated in a cable TV program taping today explaining the project. CDM-Smith is working on the existing conditions report. He stated that he does not think it will be possible to located the high school baseball field and the football field & track on the same site. However, there may be room for the girls softball field adjacent to a slightly relocated football field site.

Mr. Nichols said that he has heard concern by the public about the necessity for sequencing the projects; that we provide a place for youth baseball before commencing with the high school projects taking their site.

Mr. McKay suggested that we look at the town park "pines" area for parking, rather than a reoriented baseball field. The playground there is brand new and there is another \$50,000.00 going to be spent in that area.

Mr. Aspinwall asked about a southwest orientation for the high school baseball field and Mr. Doherty responded that would place the sun in batters eyes which is not safe. Mr. Aspinwall suggested looking at using a portion of the basketball and tennis courts combined with the Sisto field noting that we may have to relocate the 90' diamond, and the basketball and tennis courts.

Mr. Aspinwall explained that in the budget recommendations he made to the Selectmen & Finance Committee he reserved \$32,000.00 for either field design or preliminary

design. He reported that some Finance Committee members spoke of using the balance in the Oak Grove Farm (OGF) maintenance account as a source of funds for the soccer fields at the OGF. Mr. Doherty said that his property was the for the work to commence on the high school fields design. He inquired whether the track facility could be placed at the OGF Ridge St. side. Splitting that off could there be a joint football field and baseball field utilizing the same turf area?

Mr. Adelsberger responded that you can't put a synthetic track in the 200' riverfront area at OGF which would make building the track at the OGF difficult. The recommendation that CDM-Smith is working on at present is to convert the Clyde Brown field to a synthetic field and it could be designed now and built in the summer of 2015; that would relieve stress on the Town Park field.

Mr. Nichols inquired what the costs were for a football/track facility. Mr. Adelsberger reported approximately \$2.1 million with the amenities such as concessions and bathrooms.

Mr. McKay inquired about maintenance and scheduling. Mr. Adelsberger said that it was prevalent in other communities to have the Recreation Department perform the scheduling function. Regarding maintenance it could be done centrally or separately with school maintaining their property and the town its property. Mr. Aspinwall noted that the Recreation Department could use its revolving fund to hire a scheduler versus a budgeted position taking a longer time to fund.

Mr. Adelsberger said he would take the committees comments back and revise the recommendations in preparation for the next meeting which is April 24th at 7:30 PM.

Ms. Wagner said the next item on the agenda was minutes approval. Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 22, 2014, seconded by Mr. Doherty, vote in favor: unanimous.

Mr. McKay made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 PM, seconded by Mr. Doherty, vote: unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles J. Aspinwall