

TOWN OF MILLIS
FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5/1/14 MINUTES
7:45 PM MAY 1, 2014
900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA 02054 ROOM 229

ATTENDING:

David Baker
James McKay
Richard Nichols
Sean Doherty
Andrea Wagner
Charles Aspinwall. Ex officio

Lisa Hardin
Steve MacInnes
Catherine MacInnes
Chris Smith

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Baker said that there was a negative review by some Finance Committee members of the presentation made by the committee and inquired whether a fallback position should be developed. Some of their points are valid and there are questions about funding. Perhaps design funds could be obtained later thereby lowering the cost.

Ms. Wagner noted that the preliminary design numbers are for the high school field project and the geotech and survey apply to all the projects. Mr. Nichols noted that if one firm were awarded all the work they would "own" the final package.

Mr. Baker noted that the consultant should provide additional detail in their final report. He advised that the fewer things that we disturb, the lower the cost the final project would be.

Mr. McKay noted that the proposed Oak Grove Farm fields could be constructed within the 200' riverfront zone because they are proposed to be grass fields. Synthetic fields could not be built in that 200' zone. Regarding the Clyde Brown field, an 11 x 11 soccer field would apparently not fit at that site. Mr. Nichols said that he was in favor of pursuing design funds for the Clyde Brown field as it would keep the project momentum going.

Ms. Wagner noted that the proposed location of the High School baseball field at the court area eliminates the AAA field. The reason we are not pursuing the wetland area near the existing high school field is that it would take a long permitting process that eventually DEP could overturn if approved locally.

Mr. Nichols noted that the proposed fields at the former Cassidy farm would provide a campus setup but that parking could be an issue and there is a concern about children crossing the street from the Oak Grove Farm side.

Mr. Baker asked if the committee was prepared to propose another plan if the Finance Committee recommendation did not prevail. The Finance Committee recommendation, \$150,000, was less than the amount recommended by the committee, \$306,000. Ms. Wagner noted that the three items the committee plan addressed, the preliminary design of the High School fields, the final design of Oak Grove fields and the synthetic Clyde Brown fields were now cut back by elimination of final design from the three proposed improvements. Mr. Baker suggested that the committee prepare for asking for the \$306,000 or to reconsider the Finance Committee recommendations. Mr. McKay noted that there is increased liability with deteriorated fields. Ms. Wagner noted that there is a choice the committee could consider in offering a substitute motion.

Mr. Smith pointed out that the borrowing requires a two thirds vote and suggested that the priority should be the preliminary design of the high school fields and the final design of the Clyde Brown & Oak Grove Farm fields could be done at a later date. Mr. Aspinwall suggested that structuring the contracts so as notice to proceed to final design could be contingent upon what is discovered during the geotechnical and survey effort.

Mr. Smith noted that people are uneasy about proceeding to final design without having funding in place and that proceeding to final design might mean we develop plans that we may never use.

Mr. Baker stated that it is the committee's responsibility to explain all of the options to the Finance Committee and to support the \$306,000 request. Mr. Smith observed that it would not be a good idea to go to town meeting with the Finance Committee opposed to the \$306,000 request. He noted that the Finance Committee seems to be coalescing around a number that does not include final design costs for the Clyde Brown and Oak Grove Farm fields. Ms. Wagner said that we need CDM Smith to further develop the scope of work undertaken in the geotechnical survey, the land survey, the environmental review, and in final design. Mr. Doherty noted that we also must be prepared to talk about the lower cost option eliminating the Oak Grove Farm fields design from the cost estimate.

Ms. MacInnes inquired as to why the high school teams are not now using the 11 x 11 field at Oak Grove Farm now like its been offered? Why can't our state Representatives be pushed to provide funding for facilities similar to those in Norfolk. Millis is not receiving the funding that other communities are getting.

Mr. MacInnes stated that the Oak Grove Farm Commissioners have planned for one 8 x 8 field and 2 6 x 6 fields which the soccer club said was the best option to meet the needs of the younger soccer players. They tried to use their maintenance funds for construction but were informed they could not do so.

Ms. Wagner noted that you can split an 11 x 11 field into two 8 x 98 fields and Mr. Baker concurred stating that that was a more versatile option. Mr. McKay noted that the 2 11 x 11 fields were recommended by the committee so as to not interfere with the Oak Grove Farm Commission's leasing of its fields.

Mr. MacInnes noted that the creation of fields at Oak Grove and a synthetic field at the Clyde Brown School would keep the momentum going on this effort and that fees must be reviewed.


Mr. Baker noted that the high school teams and some of the sports leagues have to be prepared for displacement during construction.

Ms. Hardin asked if the town was tied to CDM-Smith for the next phase of the project And Mr. Aspinwall said it could go either way. Ms. Hardin asked why we are not applying to the Conservation Commission now, and Ms. Wagner replied that the Fields Committee proposal avoids potential future problems with DEP but that we need additional information to prepare the Notice of Intent application.

Mr. Smith also expressed a concern with CDM-Smith's numbers being high. Mr. McKay noted that the estimate was established from the Falmouth High School field project and is very similar in nature so it is very close to an actual cost. Mr. Nichols noted that the Wrentham synthetic fields cost approximately \$1.0 million dollars. Ms. Wagner said that Medway's fields would cost 1.3 million when all costs are added in.

At 9:37 PM Mr. Doherty made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Baker, vote unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles J. Aspinwall