

**MINUTES**  
**MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 21, 2014 7:30 PM ROOM 206**  
**900 MAIN ST MILLIS MA 02054**

ATTENDING:

RICHARD NICHOLS

SEAN DOHERTY

JAMES MCKAY

DAVID BAKER

CHARLES ASPINWALL, EX-OFFICIO

CHUCK ADELSBERGER, CDM-SMITH

As Vice-Chair Mr. Doherty assumed the role as Chairman for the evening and called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. Mr. Doherty asked Mr. Adelsberger to update the committee on the status of the project.

Mr. Adelsberger reported that CDM was able to work out acceptable layouts for the Clyde Brown Soccer Field, 8 v. 8, and the Oak Grove Farm, 11 v 11 fields. He said that the potential of adding open space from Mr. Roche's development could assist in the placement of seating for the field. He reported that he just came from a meeting with the Historical Commission who asked good questions but is apparently opposed to disturbing the soil to the right of the Oak Grove Farm house as it will affect the vista of travelers coming into Millis. Construction may also affect the buried stone foundations.

Mr. McKay reported that Mr. Roche's attorney is drafting a letter of donation but that it could be in lease form rather than a fee donation so that he does not make his lot more nonconforming. Mr. Baker said that we should get this land for whatever purpose – it could be used to relocate the swale or used for seating. Mr. Aspinwall pointed out that the concrete structure is used to create flood storage so that the flow onto Main St. from the soccer field is slowly introduced to the system and does not flood Main or Spring Sts. Whatever is done with the land or swale should keep that in mind. Mr. Adelsberger said that the construction of a synthetic field should end with a positive impact as there will be less runoff but that he would check with his colleagues about the flood storage issue.

Mr. Adelsberger also reported that the wetland flagging work is done. CDM has prepared an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for which the Con Comm. has scheduled a hearing on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Abutters notices are being sent. The hearing will be for work at the High School/Middle School and the Oak Grove farm.

One fortunate piece of information learned is that the stream at the High Scholl is an intermittent stream which will help in permitting.

Mr. Adelsberger reported he met with the School Department on July 30<sup>th</sup> and has another meeting scheduled for next week. He reviewed the layouts of the football field and the baseball field near the town park.

Mr. Baker expressed a concern that CDM is not further along in the process and he is concerned that we will not hit our mid-September deadline for having a recommendation for the Selectmen and town meeting. He suggested that the committee look at cutting the hill at the town park and building a road and parking from the Clyde Brown rear lot to the high school. Mr. Aspinwall expressed a concern with "project creep" as the suggested parking was not part of the draft report recommendations. Mr. Baker advised that building additional parking now as part of the fields project would provide additional parking for football games, baseball games and town park use and that not adding parking now would be short sighted. Mr. Doherty questioned whether the additional parking could be added at partial state cost as part of the Clyde Brown MSBA project. Mr. Adelsberger said that CDM plans to show added parking at Sisto field, along the former tennis court area, and possibly expand out the existing high school lot. Mr. Nichols said that it would be important to preserve the high school access road if possible. Mr. Baker concurred and pointed out that the fire department would require it.

Mr. Adelsberger reported that CDM had looked at the environmental issues associated with the Frog Pong and said that it was possible, although not probable, that the Con Comm. could consider the pons a vernal pool. There would be environmental issues associated with such a determination. Further questions remain to be answered regarding limits on pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers within certain setbacks from the stream.

Mr. Baker suggested that a postcard go out to all residents informing them of the presentation on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Aspinwall asked committee members if they thought weekly meetings would be necessary for the remainder of time prior to the September 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation to the Selectmen. The consensus of the committee was that weekly meetings would be necessary.

Mr. Aspinwall reported on the meeting Millis had with Needham officials exploring how they manage their fields. Needham adds a fee of \$15 per sport participant that goes toward a revolving fund to maintain the fields and to the general fund to spurt the park &

rec department that schedules the fields. The Dept. of public facilities maintains the fields and grounds from the sidewalk out. There was discussion as to whether Millis could adopt such a fee structure and whether the Oak Grove Farm fields should be part of the fee structure. Mr. McKay pointed out that in addition to the synthetic Clyde Brown field, the HS football field and the new baseball field we have not spoken much about the maintenance of the town park. He said that we need to provide for revenue to improve the maintenance of the Town Park fields.

Mr. Doherty suggested splitting the project into phases for construction but that scheduling should be done by a centralized process.

Mr. McKay mentioned that we would be visiting the Wrentham Recreation department on Friday to observe how they manage their field program. Mr. Adelsberger also offered to set up

At 9:40 pm Mr. Nichols made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Baker, vote 4-0 in favor. The next meeting will be Thursday August 28, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles J. Aspinwall