

MINUTES
MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 28, 2014 7:30 PM ROOM 229
900 MAIN ST MILLIS MA 02054

ATTENDING:

ANDREA WAGNER
RICHARD NICHOLS
SEAN DOHERTY
JAMES MCKAY
DAVID BAKER

CHARLES ASPINWALL, EX-OFFICIO

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Mr. McKay reported to the committee what transpired at the meeting between school officials and Chuck Adelsberger from CDM-Smith earlier in the day. CDM presented current plans for the high school football complex, the high school baseball field, the Clyde Brown soccer field, and the Oak Grove Farm Soccer field. CDM was able to fit the football field and track in a layout close to its current location. The Oak Grove Farm field was recommended to be an 11 V. 11 field or two 6 v. 6 fields with parking close to the field location to provide better handicap access. The bowl parking area was reviewed and it was determined that it would be prohibitively expensive to build. The baseball field was located near the existing tennis courts and the high school access road was preserved.

Mr. Baker reiterated his position that there needs to be a connector road between the Clyde Brown School and the High School with parking next to the proposed location for the tennis and basketball courts. Mr. Aspinwall agreed that such a road would be beneficial to the project but was not necessary at this time due to parking being added at other locations and that the road could be studied as part of the school SBA project. The committee agreed that it should be reviewed and would request that CDM show the road on the plans and cost out the option.

Mr. Aspinwall reported that Mr. McKay and he visited Wrentham last Friday to discuss how they manage their fields. Wrentham received a large tract of state land and a 2.0 million dollar state grant for their field project. The fields are managed by the Recreation Department which has a full time Rec Director and a clerical staff person. The fields are managed by two adult seasonal personnel and college and high school

students, thereby keeping their costs down. Expenses are paid by their revolving fund and a \$30,000 annual appropriation for field maintenance.

Mr. McKay reviewed the sport by sport census of all programs using Millis fields. There are over 1990 users of the fields with some use overlapping where a child might be involved in two or more sports. He cautioned that the youth baseball program pays for a significant amount of maintenance of the fields. He reported that Needham had \$15 added to each sport's fee and Wrentham had a \$70 field maintenance fee. He said that the number of participants needs to be double checked.

Mr. Aspinwall reported that Selectmen Smith had requested an analysis of how much additional funding would be generated by increasing the Community Preservation Act surcharge from 1% to 3%. The numbers show an increase of approximately \$226,000.

Mr. Baker suggested that the committee look at phasing the work to make it more affordable. Mr. Nichols observed that the Town of Weston used a private fund raising campaign. Mr. McKay expressed a concern that if phasing did not include the Clyde Brown synthetic field as part of the first phase that supporters of the soccer program and flag football program may not favor doing just the high school facilities.

Mr. Nichols said that he had heard that the John Smith soccer camp was no longer utilizing the Oak Grove fields but was not sure that this had led to increased field availability. The committee discussed inviting the Oak Grove Farm Commission and the Historical Commission to the next Fields Advisory Committee meeting.

The committee discussed costs for the project and asked that CDM be prepared to start reviewing costs at the next meeting. The committee also requested that CDM put parking on the plans, that one plan of the entire town park/high school/Clyde Brown complex be obtained. Mr. Doherty noted that we were not factoring in additional parking for other events that cause overflows such as school programs and the Thanksgiving day game but Ms. Wagner observed we are replacing the existing parking with expanded parking at the High School lot, just north of the proposed baseball field and at the Sisto field.

Mr. Aspinwall suggested that a postcard be sent to residents letting them know about the presentation the committee would be making to the Selectmen on September 22nd. He asked the committee if the options should also be broached at the September 8th Selectmen's meeting. The committee agreed that an initial review would be done at the Selectmen's 9/8/14 meeting.

Mr. McKay said he would put copies of the plans on the town's website. Mr. Nichols suggested notifying the press about the 9/22/14 presentation. The committee agreed to use the plans as presented and to move forward with management options. Mr. Aspinwall and Mr. McKay agreed to work on the options this week.

Mr. Doherty made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM, seconded by Ms. Wagner, vote 5-0 in favor. The next committee meeting is Thursday September 4th.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles J. Aspinwall