

Town of Millis
Fields Advisory Committee
Veterans Memorial Building
900 Main Street, Room 229
Millis, MA 02054
March 27, 2014, 7:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Andrea Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. The following persons were present: Jim McKay, Charles Aspinwall, Andrea Wagner, Sean Doherty, Rich Nichols, Susan Vara.

OLD BUSINESS:

Andrea Wagner began this meeting by giving a brief summary of the Fields Advisory Committee's purpose. She stated the Board of Selectmen asked them to assess the status of fields in town and the usage. In order to help facilitate that, the Selectmen hired CDM Smith Consultants who are here tonight to update the public and ask for input from the residents.

Mr. "Chuck" Adelsberger is the project manager from CDM Smith who introduced Ian Mead as a part of the team. Kim Drake is the lead landscape architect and Eilish Corey is responsible for the "data crunching" for this project.

This meeting is for community engagement—it is very important to have input from the residents. To date, they have received over 400 responses to the community survey. If you have not participated in this survey, please do before April 1st.

Field visitation, possible locations of different properties, wetlands were discussed. Also, the fact that the fields in Millis are not in good shape due to over-use and non-rest.

It was stressed that the different concepts that they will show tonight are not set in stone and that CDM Smith is looking for input from the community—one area is utilizing the survey information.

The priorities are making their final recommendations to the Fields Advisory Committee and it is hopeful that this will be on the Spring, 2014 Town Meeting warrant.

Town owned property that has been considered are: Dewey land, Cassidy field, Oak Grove Farm, Clyde Brown School, Town Park, Sisto Field, Middle/High School, Village Street (Life Course) property, Pleasant Street park. It has been determined that both the Village Street property and Pleasant Street park property have been purchased with monies that would require an act of the Legislature to allow recreation facilities built on them.

CDM Smith is meeting with the Conservation Commission on Monday, March 31, 2014 at 7:30 pm to discuss different scenarios and get their insight on some of the properties, such as the High School and Cassidy.

There was discussion about the differences of natural turf and artificial turf and the various locations. It was stressed that artificial turf is not maintenance free, and has a warrantee of 8 years, but generally doesn't need to be replaced until approximately 10-12 years. There was also discussion of the potential

of revenue generated by an artificial turf field and if there were any grants available to help in the funding of construction.

The consultants are planning address the Fields Advisory Committee with a draft report which would include costs for potential new fields. Once the Fields Advisory Committee has had the report presented, the Board of Selectmen would be next for a presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:39 pm

Motion by Sean Doherty, seconded by Jim McKay to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan K. Vara