

**TOWN FIELDS COMMITTEE
ROOM 101, VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
900 MAIN STREET
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 24, 2013
MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Kris Fogarty, Steve MacInnes, Steve Cassidy, Chip Fagen, Jim McKay, Sue Vara, Brutus Cantoreggi arrived at 6:40.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:31 pm

Old Business:

An estimate was provided by Carlson Survey Company in the amount of \$2,900 to provide a proposed plan that would show topographical features of the practice field with wetland limits, prepare a notice of intent filing with plan to include meetings, and this estimate does not include engineering design for a proposed drainage pipe. Wayne Carlson would meet with the Conservation Commission pertaining to this plan. Discussion ensued with the conclusion that the School Committee should be made aware and take control of this if it were to go any further.

Should this plan work out, it would help alleviate the Town Park fields, which would give them the opportunity to “rest” with a rotation of use of the fields.

New Business:

Discussion of the final report for the Selectmen consisted of a long term goal of the Schools getting back to using their fields for both practices and games.

Mr. Fagan discussed the hope of turf fields coming to Millis. This was his first involvement with this Committee so he was unaware that this has been discussed in the past. It seems that one of the logical choices for a turf field would be at the Middle/High School, but since it is on school grounds there is concern that other agencies would not be able to utilize the field there.

We as a Committee do feel that there is a lack of fields in Millis for public recreational uses. Since the fields are in short supply, new teams with other sports such as lacrosse cannot be introduced in Millis.

Also part of this discussion was the possibility of centralizing both the maintenance and scheduling of all of the fields in Town. This has worked well in the surrounding Town of Franklin, where Mr. Cantoreggi is the Director of the Department of Public Works. It was recently implemented there, under duress, but seems to be working well. When field use is scheduled in Franklin, the Schools are given first priority with a trickle down effect from there.

Another piece of the Selectmen's presentation is as follows:

- A. We do need more field space.
- B. The current fields need better maintenance either by the Department of Public Works or contract out.
- C. Continue to explore additional fields in Town and come up with a maintenance plan for potential new fields. The sites that have been investigated by this Committee are the Life Course Field off of Village Street, which was found to have Conservation restrictions. Cassidy Field on Exchange Street, which is situated in a very wet area of the field, plus the proximity of Oak Grove Farm presents a potential traffic concern. The capped landfill off of Island Road was also considered, but the poor condition of the existing road and lack of parking makes that field unsuitable without a major investment of money.
- D. The School Committee needs to be addressed since many of the field uses are the athletes at the Middle/High School. This Committee is hoping to be put on the agenda for an upcoming School Committee meeting. Kris Fogarty will email Jody Cleary, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools to see when we can be on the agenda.
- E. The Town Park fields need time to "rest" but there isn't the opportunity to let them rest.

Jim McKay made a motion that was seconded by Kris Fogarty to accept the meeting minutes of April 24, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim McKay made a motion that was seconded by Kris Fogarty to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan K. Vara