

Oak Grove Minutes 2/25/2016

In attendance: Steve MacInnes, John McAvoy, Sue McAvoy, Julio Fontecchio and Kathi Smith – Secretary. Guests: Charles Aspinwall -Town Administrator, Mike Carter of GCG Engineering and Nate Maltinsky of Historical Commission

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

- Steve introduced Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator and Mike Carter of GCG Engineering. Mr. Aspinwall explained Mr. Carter was going to give a presentation on possible field expansion at Oak Grove Farm. The Selectmen have been working with the Army Corp. of Engineers to assist in building fields in Millis. There were several different plans presented, including Two (2) 6 v 6 fields, One (1) 8 v 8 field, (1) one 11 v 11 field then a combination. Also included was parking lot expansion plans.
- The OGF Commission stated the 11 v 11 plans was in wetlands and would need approval from the Conservation Commission. OGF original plans for soccer field didn't interfere with wetlands.
- OGF asked who would be maintaining the fields. Mr. Aspinwall stated they are working on the field maintenance plan but no definite plans yet.
- OGF asked what groups would be using the fields. Is this field for high school? OGF designed a field for the Millis Youth Soccer because they have many younger age players. No definitive answer was given.
- OGF stated they wanted to build a new field two years ago, but were told they couldn't use OGF money for field expansion.
- OGF asked if Mr. Aspinwall had a timeline of when he wanted them to make a decision about the size of the field. He stated before May so it can go to town meeting. The Army Corp. of Engineers would not be able to begin work until this summer or next summer.
- Mike Carter presented designs for Cassidy Field next. There were a few different plans which included baseball/softball fields with 11 v 11 soccer fields in the middle.

- OGF mentioned that Youth Soccer is changing field dimensions in 2016-2017 to allow more touches per player.
- With the possible renovation or new elementary school building, the town park fields may be unusable during renovation/construction. The need for additional fields is very important.
- OGF asked for small copies of the proposed designs so they can review at a later date. Mike Carter said he could e-mail PDF plans to Steve. Second request had to be made for files.
- While Mr. Aspinwall was present at the meeting OGF Commission had few questions:
 - How does OGF go about putting “no parking” signs along Route 115? There are concerns with parking along Route 115 at some events
 - Tree removal along Route 115. Brutus Cantoreggi is the tree warden if we mark the trees he will determine if they are town trees or OGF trees.
 - OGF asked for Mr. Aspinwall’s helping regarding the continual riding of horse at Oak Grove and the need for help the enforce this rule from the Millis Police Department. Mr. Aspinwall suggested we invite Chief Edison to the next meeting to discuss the situation.
 - Lastly, how does OGF change Town Bylaws to enforce rules about riding horses and cleaning up dog waste? He stated he would help OGF draft something.
- Mr. Aspinwall also wanted to discuss having the carnival and fireworks at OGF. The commission will not allow heavy equipment on the upper soccer fields; this is farm lands and soft ground not like Town Park. The Commission is very concerned about who would pay if the field was damaged. Who would clean up? Several years ago there was a discussion with the BOS about possible water contamination from the fireworks. OGF did offer the recreation department use of the field behind farm house and parking lot in years past. However, the Recreation Department only wants to use the upper soccer field with Route 115 visibility.

The meeting continued after Mr. Aspinwall and Mr. Carter completed their presentation and discussions.

- John made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting as read. Sue seconded. Julio abstained. All in favor.
- Annual report summary is completed and ready to submit to BOS.
- Steve was asked to submit prices and amounts on how much fertilizer we used this year to Mr. Aspinwall for field study.
- Discussion about haying the back fields. Bigelow Farms has not responded to several emails.
- Julio made a motion to allow the Recreation Department to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt at OGF on March 26, 2016 from 11- 12, between the row of trees and please not on the soccer fields. John seconded. All in favor. A letter will be sent to Recreation Department.
- Discussion about the need for clearing brush from the winter storms before spring soccer season begins. John made a motion to allocate \$1,400.00 for a full day of work at town rate to remove brush from storm damage around fields, playground and behind farm house. Julio seconded. All in favor.
- John mentioned we should work on writing a list of the equipment that OGF owns for our files.
- No word for Millis Soccer regarding the letter and emails that were sent about charging a fee for games and practices.

Julio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. John seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting scheduled for March 24, 2016.