|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A stamp with a tree and text  Description automatically generated with low confidence | **TOWN OF MILLIS** |  |
| OAK GROVE FARM COMMISSION  900 Main Street • Millis, MA 02054 |  |

Oak Grove Farm Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

In attendance: John McAvoy, Sue McAvoy, Rob Elbery, Stephen MacInnes, Dave Werner, and Kathi Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

* Dave made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023, meeting with edits. Rob seconded. All in favor.
* John told the members that the D.P.W. mowed the bowl and the water line has been winterized. A second water shut off has been located behind the playground garden.
* Discussion about getting an estimate from Stumpy’s Tree to clear the dead wood around the trails and along Ridge Street. Discussion followed regarding funding for this. Dave will follow up with a walk through with a representative from Stumpy’s Tree.
* Dave will compose a letter to GLM Engineering regarding the bill we just received for work over the last year. We have been unable to reach Joyce Hastings, the owner, for discussion with the project. Oak Grove Farm still needs to get “As Built” plans with an engineer stamp once the project is completed.
* Discussion about getting an estimate from CJW Landscaping to complete additional work. CJW Landscaping charges approximately $2,000 a day and Oak Grove Farm will purchase the materials, through the town’s bids.
* There was discussion about adding wood chips to the playground areas this spring from the Playground Fund. Dave made a motion to add wood chips this spring, approximately 80 yards is needed. Steve seconded. All in favor.
* Dave would like to order a battery-operated hedge trimmer and power pruning shears to clear the lower branches and debris that the mowers can’t reach in the back Ridge Street field. Dave is willing to do some of the work if we can order the items. Kathi can order from the town’s Amazon business account. The bills can be paid through an OGF account but will be submitted to the CPC because it relates to trail improvements.
* Lengthy discussion about raising the rates for the soccer fields continued from the last meeting. Approximately $16,000 has been spent on trying to improve the conditions of the fields over the last few years. We have spent hours researching other towns and their fees for field use. Millis Soccer Club has increased their fees from $65 per child in 2016 to $150 per child in 2023. Oak Grove Farm has not increased fees for MSC since 2018. We are aware that Millis Soccer Club is contracting with outside training companies for training during practice days at OGF for no additional fee.
* Dave made a motion to raise the Millis Soccer user fees from $10 a day to $20 a day for practices and $25 per game to $30 per game. Rob seconded. All in favor. Sue will draft a letter and Kathi will send it certified to the Millis Soccer Club.
* Steve mentioned that he noticed a large hole behind the farmhouse. He will contact the D.P.W., it may be an abandoned septic system. It may be a safety concern if it grows bigger.
* Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Rob seconded. All in favor.
* The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Smith