

**Millis Recreation Committee
900 Main Street, Room 128
Millis, MA 02054
April 22, 2019, 6:30 pm
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mike Banks, Tim Davis, Erin LeBlanc, Pam Mustard, Sharon Locke and Kris Fogarty.

Absent: Steve Cassidy, Sue Vara

Guests: Reg Wilcox (MHS/Millis Youth Soccer), Jen Leach (Millis Softball), Mike Rand (Millis Softball)

On Phone: Mike Leach (Millis Baseball/Flag Football)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 PM:

Chairman, Mike Banks called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

Autumn Road Race:

It was decided that the date for the Autumn Road Race will be Saturday November 2, 2019. Erin LeBlanc presented her ideas to the committee. The race will have a health and fitness theme. Possible names being considered are "Fall Into Fitness" or "The Harvest Hustle". Youth will be included in the race there will also be a Kids Fun Run. Race route is still TBD but will definitely be kept on the Town Hall side of Route 109.

Tim Davis recommended going with a race/timing company. He suggested wither Race Wire or Baystate. The Recreation Committee was in agreement that chip timing should be used. A race company could run the entire race including registrations, bibs, tee shirts, etc. This will be more expensive. Tim suggests only using the race company for timing and keeping registration in house. Kris Fogarty already has a vendor that she gets shirts from. Runners can pre-register but walk-ins are welcome the day of the race. There will be no "family cap". The committee feels that charging less for the kid's race will help some families out with the cost and a cap is not needed.

Erin LeBlanc discussed her idea for a vendor fair with a Health & Fitness theme to take place at the race, with a separate registration for vendors. Vendor table fee should be \$40. Must distinguish between profit and non-profit. If vendors want to sell merchandise they will have to obtain a peddlers permit from the town. Erin also suggested having bands perform on a flatbed, possibly borrowed from Tangerini's. Other ideas were a DJ, the NE Revolution mascot, have the Red Sox World Series trophy on display, get involvement from the Boston Bulldogs Running Club. Also discussed was asking Roche Bros. or other businesses to donate water, bananas, granola bars, etc. for the runners.

Race timeline: 8:00 am – 9:00 am – registration, 9:00 am Kids Race, 10:00 am – 5K Race, Vendors are open till noon. Tim Davis suggested setting up tiered sponsorships to pay for the race costs. Tim will forward to the recreation committee a copy of a sponsorship tier that he has used.

Race prizes, town permits, sponsorship tiers, and logo will be discussed at a future meeting.

Fields

Mike Banks explained to the group that there is another push to upgrade the fields in Millis. The proposal failed five years ago but the Recreation Committee is looking to do it differently this time. Mike explained how the committee would compartmentalize the project and seek different funding for different project so that it is not just one big project with one big price tag.

Mike Banks and Tim Davis walked the fields and feel that two of the biggest needs are Town Park (trouble growing grass and field is not level) and the High School Varsity field. The Varsity Field is used for 65 games in 75 days in the fall between football and soccer. Reg Wilcox mentioned that Millis has a higher injury rate than other schools due to poor surfacing. He also said that the MHS Girls Soccer Team could not host a state tournament game because the Millis Varsity Field was deemed to be unfit.

Mike Banks wants to be sensitive to the needs of the field user groups and have as little disruption as possible to the teams. Baseball representatives explained that they recently spent \$6,000 to redo the infield and spend an additional \$14,000 a year to landscape and maintain the field. The baseball fields don't need significant work but it does take a lot to on the behalf of Millis Baseball to maintain the fields.

Mike would like to know what the needs of each team in Millis are in regards to the fields. Mike will send an email out the all the sports user groups to get their opinions. There was some discussion as to whether or not to revive the former "Fields Committee" and it was decided that for now it will just stay within the Recreation Committee.

Other things that were discussed included: Fields need to be rotated and rested; a turf field would allow this to happen. Would Oak Grove be open to the idea of a 7 v 7 soccer field? Teams need to see that their investments are going back into the fields. Everyone was in agreement that there need to be some short term fixes but moving forward there needs to be a long term plan to maintain the fields.

Other possible sites for new fields could include: Tresca Brothers land off Island Road, new Ridge Street Development, and Cassidy Field. CPC could potentially be a way to pay for a new field or field maintenance. Tim Davis will help to write the CPC proposal. Mike Rand has field construction experience and has offered to help with any field construction plans, contacts, or questions.

Next meeting the Recreation Committee will review the demographic information from the user groups that Mike will collect and a breakdown of the next steps that need to take place.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Approval of minutes were passed over until the next meeting

ADJOURNMENT 8:35 PM

Motion by Tim Davis, seconded by Erin LeBlanc to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Recreation Committee meetings will be on May 13, 2019 and June 3, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon Locke

