

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**215 Millstone Road Millstone Twp. NJ 08535**  
**October 7, 2013 7:30 pm**  
**Minutes**

J/Bell calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY P.L. 1975, C231 IS READ.**

**I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THAT PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETINGS WHICH WAS MAILED TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE MESSENGER PRESS, POSTED ON THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BULLETIN BOARD IN TOWN HALL AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK ON DECEMBER 27, 2012.**

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Jim Bell, Chair</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Chris Morris, Vice Chair</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Bill Hanson, Treasurer</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Dominick Ricci</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Terrence Murphy</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Ken Simels</b>	<b>x</b>	
<b>Andrew Ferrara</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Peter Kowal</b>		<b>x</b>
<b>Sharon Peake</b>	<b>x</b>	

Chairman opens the meeting to the public at 7:31 p.m.

Members of the Pop Warner organization addressed the Commission. Comments were made by Dan Merkel 8 Burnt Tavern Road, Anthony Delguercio 9 Lebers Lane, Ben Minton 8 Mineral Spring Road, and Frank Cook 10 Hannah Mount Drive.

A lengthy discussion was held; at issue was the practice location for the 2014 Pop Warner season. Pop Warner members have several concerns in relocating practice from Wagner Farm Park to Millstone Park; also known as the Lee Farm. Among the major concerns is the lack of running water, electricity, access to equipment, storage, shelter and the safety it poses to its members. They believe Millstone Park is not a developed property and is unsuited for practice.

Pop Warner feels due to the lack of bathroom facilities during practice breaks not all players have access to the portable units. Some players are using the soy fields as an alternative to waiting for an available bathroom unit. B/Kinsey assured Pop Warner that if additional portable bathroom units were requested they would be placed at Millstone Park.

Pop Warner spoke of the lack of access to equipment since it is stored at Wagner Farm Park and the need to rent a storage container. J/Bell let them know that practice would remain at Wagner Farm Park until September 1 after all uniform sizing including helmets, shoulder pads and uniform distribution was complete.

Pop Warner discussed the soy fields and pond and player's siblings entering the areas they consider unsafe. Some Pop Warner attendees & siblings had rashes in 2012 as a result of entering the soy field. Also, the danger of the pond is a concern. It was agreed that greater parental supervision was needed. B/Kinsey stated that snow fence was placed and additional fencing at the soil field would be installed.

In addition, the simultaneous practice times for Cheer and Football and the logistics of attending cheer practice at Wagner Farm Park and football practice at Millstone Park is a hardship. The lack of shelter and the driving distance was used as an example of the hardship to parents. In 2012 during a sudden lighting storm a parent dropped off his player at Millstone Park and was at Wagner Farm Park with his daughter for Cheer practice when the storm came. The parent expressed concern that his child had to be placed in a coach's car until the storm had passed because he was unable to reach Millstone Park before the lighting storm hit.

Pop Warner inquired if the Township had received any complaints about the use of lights at Wagner Farm Park. The program relayed to the Commission that the lights are used for a total 12 -14 hours during the regular and playoff season and they strictly adhere to where they are placed and the length of time they are to be used. Neither the Commission nor the Township reported having received any complaints regarding the use of the lights.

Dan Merkel, Pop Warner President inquired who made the final decision on field rotation, Tom Antus, Twp. Administrator, DPW, the Recreation Department or the Commission. His inquiry stemmed from a recent meeting with Lacrosse and the Township and conflicting resolutions. R/Kinsey stated the final decision falls to the Recreation Commission on the recommendations of Tom Antus, Recreation and DPW.

The Commission agreed to take all of Pop Warner's concerns under consideration. The Commission did advise those present that field rotation and the need to maintain and improve the field conditions at all the parks is a priority. It is the desire of the Commission to adhere to field maintenance plan from Brad Park, Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University to optimize turf conditions. This would require fields be rested and programs moved to alternate locations. The Commission for 8 years has been moving towards utilizing Millstone Park on a regular basis. The goal is to have a long term rotation schedule.

The Township has invested \$100,000.00 in funds to build a parking lot and develop the fields. R/Kinsey has attempted to acquire a Block Grant to install bathrooms but the funds were directed to the Baird property. J/Bell advised long term the rehabilitation of an existing structure at Millstone Park for bathrooms and snack shack is being considered. No timeframe was available for the rehabilitation of the existing structure. R/Kinsey noted that a proposal was presented to Nike last year seeking funding to develop Millstone Park but was denied.

Also, addressing the Commission on behalf of Lacrosse was Lisa Bellotti 13 Robins Road North. The Lacrosse program used Millstone Park for practice in Spring 2012. The rental of portable bathrooms was charged to their expenses. This expense did not cause Lacrosse to be denied any request for equipment, tournament fees, or field paint. R/Kinsey assured Lacrosse and Pop Warner that all rental expenses for storage and portable bathrooms resulting from field rotation would no longer be the responsibility of the program and the expense would be paid by the Township.

Chairman closes the meeting to the public at 8:50 p.m.

## **Basketball**

K/Simels asked K/Slisky to clarify the closing of enrollment date for advertising. As per the motion approved in 2013 when choosing the closing of registration the deadline will be three (3) days before the first draft or first scheduled game; whichever applies.

K/Simels also stressed the importance of having coaches in place before draft night of Nov. 6.

K/Slisky informed the Commission that Kevin Bomba and Bob Moran had a meeting with the Recreation Department to review plans for the upcoming season. Ideally, 8 players per team will maximize playing time; the board would like no more than 10 players per team.

Last year a rebuilding of the Basketball Board began, the members are now regrouping for the winter playing season. K/Simels asked K/Slisky to send out email blasts requesting coaches.

Kevin Bomba would like to restructure the practices for Dribblers as a Skills & Drills two nights a week. High School practice would be two nights per week with its format changing to a pick up style. These changes would be under the direction of coaches.

K/Slisky told the board that the Recreation office is gathering bids for jerseys, the cost would be higher than the summer since it be more printing including numbers on the backs at approximate cost of \$5,000.00. It is believed the registration will not be raised since the revenue from the summer program will offset the expense. K/Slisky also informed the Commission that we will try to order as late as possible so we do not over order.

## **Millstone Day**

D/Ricci gave a recap of the day's events. The weather cooperated and all worked out well. Frogbridge was a beautiful location and their staff was very helpful throughout the day. The Free Throw contested went well and medals were awarded for first, second and third place. Attendance was at 1774.

K/Slisky informed the Commission that 26 businesses participated this year up from 17 last year. The Commission rented from Frogbridge Inflatables, Rock Wall Climbing and the Bungee Trampolines. Wristbands were sold to offset the cost of the rentals. The Recreation Department tent included a pumpkin patch and free crafts.

Early feedback from vendors was positive. Foot traffic picked up mid afternoon after Little League & Pop Warner games were done. Residents enjoyed the facilities; many residents were seen on the lake paddle boating, playing tennis & volleyball.

## **Holiday Lighting**

K/Slisky advised the Commission that the Fire Hall is going through renovations and may not be available for Holiday Lighting scheduled for Dec 7. The Commission was also advised that the Community Center is booked for the Senior Luncheon. The Fire Department holds its monthly meeting on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> and will be selecting a contractor; the Recreation Department will follow up with them and advise the Commission through email. J/Bell suggested the Clarksburg Inn as an alternative site since Thanksgiving will be late this year and the tent at the Clarksburg Inn will still up.

## **Soccer**

K/Simels stated that Recreation Soccer is losing kids to travel so early, to deter that from happening he suggested more training for coaches is needed.

J/Bell informed the Commission that Wayne Price of Dragon Soccer Academy, Manalapan was looking for field space and had volunteered to group train pro bono in exchange field time. Unfortunately, Township facilities are not permitted to be used for businesses. Unlike MUTS trainer Rodrigo Castro who is paid through the MUTS organization Wayne Price is an independent trainer. K/Simels reported about 30% of coaches have the skills to train other volunteer coaches. K/Simels recalled two years ago it was considered making the MUTS organization part of Recreation. J/Bell said he will reinitiate a conversation with Rocco Regina. An advantage of joining Recreation would provide the MUTS organization administrative support from the Recreation Office. A concern of the Commission is the percentage of nonresidents who participate in Millstone United Travel Soccer. J/Bell said MUTS coaches are required to live in Millstone. Also, as the players get older they drop out, play school ball or lose interest. K/Simels asked J/Bell to inquire if MUTS philosophy is similar to Recreation's.

K/Slisky reported the trial program with UFA Soccer & Robbinsville has been successful. No complaints regarding traveling to Allentown has been noted. Also, the addition of the soccer uniforms was very well received. The Commission approved the continuation of interleague play for the Spring so players have a more

competitive program in the Spring. K/Simels suggested reaching out to East Windsor for the Fall 2014 season.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting:

Motion to approve, Moved J/Bell, Seconded S/Peake, Carried

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Jim Bell, Chair</b>			
<b>Chris Morris, Vice Chair</b>			
<b>Bill Hanson, Treasurer</b>			
<b>Dominick Ricci</b>			
<b>Terrence Murphy</b>			
<b>Ken Simels</b>			
<b>Andrew Ferrara</b>			
<b>Peter Kowal</b>			
<b>Sharon Peake</b>			

• **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn, Moved J/Bell, Seconded S/Peake, Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.