

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2019**

Chairman Morris opened the Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Reading of Adequate Notice by Chairman Morris

Roll Call: Present: Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Russell, Aprile, Kilcomons, Rosenfeld

Absent: Casale

Business Administrator Roger Staib attending

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened at 7:34 p.m. and closed at 7:34 pm

Adult Programs – Programs are open. Gym time should be OK for adult programs.

Basketball - There will be issues with gym time for recreation basketball. Similar to last year, dance companies have been given both MS gyms over the weekend that impacts the winter schedule for youth basketball games. A meeting is needed with Dr. Huss to review options.

Pop Warner – C/Kilcomons noted that they are entering their fourth week. Practice is moving to Wagner now. Pop Warner is having issues securing lights for practices. They did not allocate the funds in their budget since they were hoping to have access to Millstone Park. C/Morris noted that all programs were aware that Millstone Park would most likely not be open and were to prepare for that situation. C/Rosenfeld noted that DPW should be inspecting the condition of the fields on a regular basis since they are out there cutting the grass. There should be an individual that is responsible for park maintenance. Administrator Roger noted that park management will be an issue that the township has to address in preparation for opening Millstone Park. A process needs to be created for inspecting all fields and parks on a yearly basis to keep track of the items that need to be addressed.

Flag Football – Secretary DeFelice noted that we have 2 divisions with 4 teams each. The start of competitive games was delayed 1 week due to a lack of coaches and late registrations. Play could be accommodated at either Abate or Wagner. C/Morris noted that a punch list should be created to track the improvements needed at Wagner Farm Park. Football and Lacrosse should provide feedback to recreation on what needs to be addressed. C/Skowronski commented that volunteers could be sought for small repairs that are on the punch list.

Soccer – C/Simels noted that MUTS travel was not happy with having to pay for lights this Fall. They said that they had not planned for it. Secretary DeFelice noted that soccer had requested use of the fields between the Primary and Elementary school back in August where they could bring in light towers without any complaints.

Field Hockey – R/Skowronski noted that Field Hockey starts Wednesday with the new instructor.

Wrestling – Will be opening next month.

Lacrosse – R/Skowronski noted that the Fall clinic starts soon but the turnout was weak. Pre-season gym time for Lacrosse will be similar to last year. C/Kilcomons commented that recreation programs need to advertise through social media. Administrator Roger noted that the township is in the process of creating a facebook page that recreation can post on.

Tennis – Secretary DeFelice noted that tennis was delayed due to weather but will have 5 classes for the Fall with about 24 registrations. There were late registrations that allowed the classes to be increased. C/Rosenfeld noted that the late fees should be increased to force registrations to be done on time. C/Morris noted that late fees are a double edged sword and could prevent some people from registering at all. Secretary DeFelice

noted that any change in the amount of late fees would need to be established in an ordinance which requires several weeks to put into effect.

Summer Camp – Nothing to report.

Millstone Day – Signs go up next week. Recreation will reach out to cornerstone music for someone to sing the national anthem.

Holiday Lighting – We will request December 6th.

Building & Grounds – Wagner –The township received a request for a dog show to be held at Wagner Farm Park on December 6th and 7th. Although this was discouraged from happening in the past, there is nothing in the ordinance book that would permit the use of the park for this purpose. C/Morris noted that the township committee must come up with ordinances that control how the parks are used. Administrator Roger commented that the township committee would like input from the recreation commission. C/Skowronski asked if the leash ordinance applied in this situation. Administrator Roger replied that according to counsel, it did not. C/Morris noted that any ordinance should have a fee structure to allow for costs associated with park cleanup and maintenance for that event. C/Rosenfeld noted that if an event does not specifically impact a recreation program, the recreation commission has not ability to deny the request. Administrator Roger noted that each park will need its own fee structure and capacity usage requirement. The township counsel is looking at potential ordinances. Secretary DeFelice noted that Wagner poses a problem due to the bathroom design. If you allow public events, you need to provide accessible bathrooms. The external bathrooms at Wagner grant access to the inside of the building to the public. The cheer program uses the gym on the weekends.

New Business – Secretary DeFelice noted that League Athletics is requiring recreation to upgrade to a new merchant processing method that will increase our costs significantly. The CFO and I are trying to get them to honor their original contract that grandfathered Millstone recreation for 5 years from February 2019. C/Morris noted that a grant to convert a building next to the Presbyterian Church on Stagecoach Rd to accommodate bicyclists and events at the church. Secretary DeFelice asked if the facility would impact recreation. C/Morris replied that there should be no impact to recreation.

Millstone Park – The open grant on Millstone Park has a checklist of items that need to be addressed. Most of the items relate to recreation equipment. C/Kilcomons noted that any equipment could end up walking. C/Rosenfeld asked if funding is available for the equipment. C/Morris noted that funding will have to come from somewhere because the grant needs to be closed out. No additional improvements can be made until this grant is closed. There will be a meeting with the county to determine what items are needed to complete the current open grant. We need to get some signs up that notify residents that the park is closed. C/Kilcomons commented that he can assist in getting signs stating that the park is closed. He suggested that in the future, the township install some kind of gate system that prevents cars and other vehicles from entering the park after hours.

Code of Conduct- C/Simels noted that the Code of Conduct had the 1st reading by the Township Committee.

Soccer Referee Fees – The referee assignor is having trouble getting recreation referees because our fee amount has not changed in a long time. The going rate is \$30.00.

A motion to raise recreational soccer referee fees to \$30.00 per game was made by Ken Simels and seconded by Joe Adornetti. Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Rosenfeld, Skowronski, Russell, Aprile, Kilcomons voted in favor.

Seeing no further business, C/Morris made a Motion to Adjourn and C/Addornetti offered a second. The Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew DeFelice