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| 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 – February 29, 2024

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

Invited Guests: Ben McCarthy and Jack MacFarlane – They are requesting to hold senior projects at Oak Grove Farm.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

* Rob made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024, meeting with edits. Steve seconded. All in favor.
* Discussion about the sink hole behind the farmhouse. Steve put a stake in the ground to identify the location. This is a safety hazard, and we are hoping the DPW will do an exploratory dig and/or fill for now until more information is found.
* Invited Guest: Ben McCarthy: Ben would like to have a 5K as part of this senior project. He is the captain of the Cross-Country team and is familiar with the course. Ben is anticipating 60 people that includes runners and helpers. All proceeds will go to the Jimmy Fund. He would like to have the 5K race on Sunday, April 7th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Ben is also planning to have a raffle at the race.
* Steve made a motion to allow Ben McCarthy to have his senior project 5K race at Oak Grove Farm on Saturday, April 7th from 9:00am to 12:30pm. All trash must be removed. Sue will draft permit with instructions.
* Next Guest: Jack MacFarlene – Jack would like to hold a soccer clinic at Oak Grove Farm during April vacation to get more young athletes in 6th to 8th grade interested in soccer. Jack is the captain of the Millis Soccer Team. He is anticipating 20 participants. He has not determined how much he would charge or where he would donate the money, he mentioned the Recreation Department or the High School to improve the fields. Jack is tentatively thinking Monday - Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with Thursday and Friday rain dates if needed. Jack is still determining how people will make donations for his senior project.
* Rob made a motion to allow Jack MacFarlene to hold his senior project at Oak Grove Farm lower field from April 15th to 19th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm including rain dates. Jack will have to send Sue specific information for the permit, and he will need a parent’s signature.
* Sparhawk Academy has requested to use the baseball field for a total of 8 weeks in the spring. Last year we charged them $10 a night Monday – Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:15 pm. This year they will not be using the fields four days a week based on their schedule. We will charge $10 a day.
* According to the Millis Soccer Club website, their season begins on April 6th. However, Oak Grove Farm has not heard from anyone at MSC. The Commission agreed that the lower former softball field will not open until the fall. The newly renovated top soccer field has taken a beating and has been determined that it can only be used for games, not practices. The bottom field needs extensive renovation in the future. MSC will need to work with OGF to move the fields periodically so certain areas, such as goal mouths, are not destroying the grass.
* Rob made a motion to inform the Millis Soccer Club that the lower former softball field is off limits this spring. The newly renovated 7 v 7 field can only be used for games, not practice. In the permit it must be stated that if the field is used for practices, there will be a fine. Steve seconded. All in favor.
* Steve offered to aerate the bottom field as it is very compacted.
* John received a quote from Southridge for wood chips at a cost of $3,360 and CJW Landscaping can spread the chips (four workers and a dingo) for $2,800. They will pick up the mats, spread and level the chips for safety.
* John emailed everyone the budget and discussed the balances and bills that must be paid.
* Discussion about the haying of the back fields. Jason Lobisser made two cuts in 2021, one cut in October of 2022, and one cut in June of 2023. Oak Grove Farm is hoping Jason Lobisser cuts the fields again soon.

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM. Rob seconded. All in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:30 PM in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Smith