

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 2, 2020**

Chairman Morris opened the Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Reading of Adequate Notice by Chairman Morris

Roll Call: Present: Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Skowronski, Kilcomons, Lourenco (7:34), Randazzo  
Absent: Strickland

**Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2020**

C/Morris made a Motion to approve and C/Simels offered a Second. Roll Call Vote:

Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Skowronski, Kilcomons and Randazzo vote yes to approve the minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairman Morris opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 7:35 p.m.  
Commissioner Lourenco joins at 7:35pm.

Anthony Italiano, 2 Candlewood Court, mentioned that the activities at the new fields at Millstone Park are going very well and would like to thank everyone involved in getting the park open and ready for recreational programs.

Chairman Morris closes Public Comment at 7:37

C/Morris suggests that rather than go through each program since most activities are inactive or suspended that liaisons just discuss any items that need to be addressed.

C/Skowronski noted that Lacrosse clinic and Field Hockey just finished and everything went well.

Secretary DeFelice noted that Flag football begins playoffs this week and finishes on Friday.

C/Kilcomons asked about the status of the Holiday Lighting. C/Morris noted that the Ad Hoc Committee discussed having a tree planted at Millstone Park by end of November. The tree location was discussed along with the addition of a Challenger Playground that the Township just received a grant for. The Township engineer will be mapping out the playground which will impact the location of the tree. Secretary DeFelice expressed concern that the tree lighting is 4 weeks out and a tree location has not been decided yet. C/Randazzo asked what the Ad Hoc Committee was doing in regards to the tree lighting. C/Morris explained that they were dealing with all aspects of changes to the new park and securing the tree was one of them. Halka Nursery will be donating the tree. C/Randazzo noted that the Holiday lighting can be toned down and simplified too meet current COVID restrictions provided that a tree is planted in time. C/Morris noted that the tree at the Community Center can be our backup. Everything would be outside. C/Randazzo noted that the Community Center area was very small and would be difficult to keep socially distant. If a tree can be placed at Millstone Park by November 30<sup>th</sup>, it should be held there. Secretary DeFelice requested that the date be pushed back to December 11<sup>th</sup> to provide more time to advertise and prepare since the tree has to be planted and then decorated. The Commission approved the date of December 11<sup>th</sup>.

C/Morris provided an update on Millstone Park. Field 5 is ready for asphalt as soon as the weather improves. The lining of the hard court surface will have to wait until warmer weather in early Spring. Fields 7-9 are marked out for the installation of the new ball fields. Park signs are up. The broken street light has not been replaced. Speed bumps will be installed by Spring. The hockey rink from Black Bear was delivered to the park and is waiting for the asphalt to be placed.

Secretary DeFelice noted that approval was given to power wash the basketball and tennis courts at Abate Park. 2 HVAC units have been repaired at Wagner Park. The fields at Wagner have been aerated and overseeded. Millstone Park fields will be aerated and overseeded next week.

The Recreation Commission discussed school gym availability for recreational programs. Due to COVID, there was a delay in getting gym time approvals. Recreation has submitted their request to the BOE. The schools are prepping facilities for in person teaching and need time to get their protocols in place before opening to outside participants. Recreation expects to get the gym time approvals by next week and will be opening the programs that rely on school facilities. C/Morris inquired about the impact on recreational programs. Secretary DeFelice noted that youth recreation basketball will have a shortened season due to the loss of December dates but will be able to extend 2 weeks into March. Men's basketball will have to wait until December before getting access to the courts. All programs will have to follow strict protocols. No one will be allowed into the gym unless they are registered. Parents and spectators will not be permitted into the gym or common areas. Recreation will not be using the Elementary school but should be OK as long as the Middle School and Primary school are secured. Girls basketball will be impacted the most since they rely on other towns to play games. Allentown and New Egypt are not moving forward with Winter indoor sports. Wrestling will not be playing this year. C/Lourenco noted that the volunteers who coordinate the program are not planning on returning next year. Secretary DeFelice noted that the wrestling program is heavily dependent on volunteers to be viable. Without replacements, it will be impossible to run a program. C/Morris asked for clarification on how time slots are distributed among the various programs. Secretary DeFelice noted that during rec basketball season (December – March), the younger ages are given the earlier time slots. High school age and adult programs are given the later time slots. During the rest of the school year, gym time is available to accommodate everyone. The Recreation Commission agreed to provide youth programs with earlier time slots. C/Skowronski asked about the impact of extending basketball 2 weeks on Lacrosse that uses the gyms in March for indoor training. Secretary DeFelice noted that all programs will be impacted this year with the restrictions on indoor sports and delayed access to gyms. At this time, it is impossible to tell how Spring sports will be impacted but Recreation is expecting reduced numbers of participants this Winter so gym time should be OK if we are able to get into the school facilities. C/Skowronski requested that the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade lacrosse teams have access to the Middle School gym in March. C/Simels asked about the impact of blackout dates due to the rental of the MPAC to dance companies. Secretary DeFelice replied that Dr. Huss has implied that Millstone youth programs will be accommodated in the MS gyms. Due to COVID, the size of the dance competitions has been greatly reduced and will not require gym space. A question was posed about how dance companies would be permitted to congregate in common areas like the cafeteria and foyer with current restrictions. Secretary DeFelice noted that Recreation has no jurisdiction over how the school enforces COVID protocols on other groups. The Recreation Department has established protocols for indoor sports that was distributed to the Commission and the BOE. There will be a lot of effort needed to ensure that everyone follows them. The Dribblers program will be reducing team sizes to allow 1 parent to attend under current restrictions. C/Lourenco inquired about the capabilities of streaming basketball games for parents. Secretary DeFelice noted that recreation does not have the equipment and the WiFi capability in the gyms might not be strong enough. C/Randazzo recommended having the student volunteers assist with video streaming. C/Morris noted that he will discuss the issue with the school to determine if the bandwidth can allow us to stream video.

Secretary DeFelice noted that the AHS athletic director made a request to use Wagner Farm's football field as a backup for the HS to hold a senior night football game on November 21<sup>st</sup> in case the school's field was unavailable or another location could not be secured. C/Lourenco asked if AHS would handle all logistics of hosting a game. Secretary DeFelice confirmed that AHS would take care of all security and field prep. The Recreation Commission agreed that the Wagner Farm Park main field would be available to AHS if needed.

C/Morris motioned to adjourn at 8:34pm. C/Adornetti offered a second.