



**Softball Field Renovation Committee**  
**Milton, New Hampshire**  
**Minute of the Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2016**  
**Emma Ramsey Community Center**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Adams, Fred Cameron, Pat Smith, John Katwick, Michelle Beauchamp, Doug Shute, Jane Weymouth and Karen Brown

Additional Attendees: Selectman, Andrew Rawson, Superintendent of Schools, Earl Sussman, & MES Principal, John Safina, & Milton Town Administrator, Heather Thibodeau.

The meeting was opened at 11:03 am.

The group recited the pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 16th meeting were reviewed.

- Doug Shute requested a couple of small changes to the minutes.
- Doug Shute motioned to accept the minutes with the amended changes, seconded by Pat Smith. Motion passed.

Facebook: Selectman Rawson shared how appalled he was at the reaction that he received over a comment he posted to thank all the people who have worked so hard to make the ballfield a reality for the kids. He was not expecting the negativity that was posted on the site. He also requested that a list of the donations be brought before the board of selectman so that the people who have donated can be properly thanked and that the board can accept the donations at a public meeting. Prior to any donations, committee members had gone to a board of selectman's meeting to request that the committee be formed and that the committee was able to accept donations of labor, material and money on behalf of the Ballfield Renovation Project. Permission was granted at that meeting. Both Fred and Pat agreed that they would be put on the agenda for the next selectman's meeting and give them a list of all the donations to date.

Financial Report: Karen Brown presented the current financial report to the group. Karen gave a quick overview of what the funds represent.

- Fred Cameron motioned to accept the financial report and to put it on file, seconded by John Katwick. Motion carried.

Irrigation: Bob Adams shared that as of last Friday (9-23-2016), the water line has been hooked up. He has been watering manually (not on timed system), but been turning the line on and off and will keep doing so until the back-flow has been officially certified. We cannot hook up to the automated irrigation system until the back-flow has been certified. The system is watering at 15 minutes a zone and there are 4 zones on the field. Once the system is up and running, Gilford Well will give the committee an estimate of the water usage. Pat Smith and Fred Cameron will approach the board of selectman to ask for a sewer adjustment for that specific amount of water. The water is not going through the sewer system, so the group is hopeful that the board will allow the adjustment to the school's sewer bill. It was also discussed that the irrigation system programming will be different from spring to fall because the needs of the field will be different in the spring then they will be in the fall. The system will be adjusted to meet the needs

of the field. Fred predicted that within the next 4 to 5 weeks, we will have to shut the system down for the winter.

Media Outreach: The group again discussed the need to get the word out to the public so that they know that the field is being renovated, and that the project is in need of additional funding. Michelle will be working on getting the press to come out to talk to us. Jane Weymouth will talk to Mike Whaley, who is a sportswriter for the Fosters to see if he would like to write a piece about the field.

Fundraising Sign: John Katwick shared pictures of a purposed sign that is much like the sign that the Milton Townhouse Committee used to showcase their fundraising efforts. The sign monitors the amount of fundraising that is needed with a thermometer that tracks the monies raised to date, so our families can see how far we have come and how far we need to go to complete the project. Location of the sign was discussed. It was decided that maybe two signs should be put in place. One near the school and one downtown at Veteran's Park. The thought was that people who do not have children in the school system might not ever see the sign by the school, and even though people might not have children in the school system, they still might like to contribute to the project. The consensus of the group was to try and have two signs built. John was going to move forward with his current design and see if he could generate the funding for both signs. He will go before the school board to ask permission to place one of the signs on school property if the group decided that it would be the best place for it. The Parks and Recreation Department has authority over Veteran's Park, so it won't be an issue placing a second sign there.

Milton Matters: John Katwick shared a letter with the group that was written in 2008. The letter came from the principal at the time, Robert Bickford. The letter emphasized the importance of community service and community involvement of the students of Nute High School. To date, John is not aware of any movement from the school on getting students involved in doing community service as part of their high school careers. There was discussion that there are some groups that the students must do community service as part of their enrollment in the group such as National Honor Society. Earl Sussman thanked John for giving him an update on the background of "Milton Matters". Jane Weymouth shared that she has a student intern who will be working with her. The student's name is Devon Hurley. Devon has already began working on doing a community spaghetti dinner at the Nute High Cafeteria to help raise funds for the ballfield. Devon will be in charge of all aspects of doing the dinner to include, getting donations, advertising and oversight of the cooking and serving of the dinner. Earl Sussman also shared that Jane, Scott Currier and himself will be sitting down to discuss ways in which they can get the students more involved in the community.

Donation Letters: Michelle Beauchamp shared a donation letter that she had composed and would like the permission of the group to send the letter out to both area businesses and to bigger corporate sponsors in hopes to help raise the additional needed funds. The group liked the letter. She also would like to approach the selectman to see if she could use the postage machine to send the letters out. The committee agreed to have her do so.

Calendar Drawing: Jane Weymouth will take over the drawing of the calendar prizes. She will see if she can get student volunteers to help with the drawings and will draw the first 15 winners at the first student lunch and the second 15 winners at the second lunch. She will get in touch with the winners. Karen will process the money winners through the town bookkeeper as

soon as she is notified who the winners are. The calendar winners will be drawn on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dugouts: The group discussed the donations to date for the building of the dugouts. Fred Cameron has agreed to donate the rough lumber, and will purchase the T1-11 at cost if the group would like him to. Bob Adams has secured the donation for the roofing shingles and the installation of them. We are still in need of the donation of the concrete pads for each dugout, but there are several concrete companies in the area that can be contacted in regards to both donations and an estimate for the work. John Katwick and Fred Cameron will be overseeing the construction of these for the committee.

Community Spaghetti Dinner: Jane Weymouth confirmed the date of Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm as the date that Devon would like to put on the dinner. PTA has offered to pay for the food for the dinner and the girls' softball team will be serving the food that night. Doug Shute will approach the school board in regards to changing the time of the school board meeting that night, so that the school board members can attend the function. The committee is very pleased that a student has come forward to help with the fundraising efforts on behalf of the student body. The consensus of the committee is that if the students get involved with the actual funding of the field, that they will take pride in the ownership of the field as well. This field will serve both the needs of the student bodies at both schools, and will also will serve as a community field for our Milton Families.

Pat Smith thanked the Superintendent, the Principal and our new Town Administrator for joining us today for our meeting. It meant a lot to the committee to have them join us for this meeting and for their interest in getting more involved in this project and hopefully for future projects for our Milton Youth and Families. The committee is looking forward to working more collaboratively with the school district.

Next meeting will be at the Emma Ramsey Community Center on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

Karen Brown motioned to close the meeting at 12:28 pm seconded by Bob Adams. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 12:28.

Respectfully submitted;

Karen J. Brown  
Town of Milton  
Recreation Director

Minutes Approved, Date: \_\_\_\_\_