

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2021**

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

Reading of Adequate Notice by Chairman Adornetti

Roll Call: Present: C/Adornetti, C/Simels, C/Lourenco, C/Strickland, C/Randazzo (7:35), C/Italiano
Committeemen Chris Morris attending

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: January 11, 2021

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

C/Adornetti, C/Simels, C/Lourenco, C/Strickland, C/Randazzo and C/Italiano vote yes to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Adornetti opened Public Comment at 7:33 and Closed at 7:33pm.

Adult Programs – C/Strickland requested a status from the Secretary on access to the school gyms. Secretary DeFelice noted that there is currently an outbreak in the 7th grade class and their in-class instruction has gone virtual. The BOE is concerned about having kids from different cohorts mixing for recreational programs and causing other grades to halt in-class instruction. With Monmouth County numbers still in the orange zone, there is a reluctance to move forward with opening the gyms to recreational programs at this time. C/Italiano asked how youth basketball could proceed without the 7th grade. Secretary DeFelice noted that moving forward with some grades but not others would be very difficult and would not be in line with what the BOE is trying to achieve by limiting situations that could help spread COVID. C/Morris noted that making exceptions for 1 group and not another would cause a problem. If youth basketball is shut down, how do you justify keeping cheer, Warriors and Special needs going. C/Randazzo asked what grades Special needs covered. Secretary DeFelice noted that participants were in 4th grade and 9th grade. C/Randazzo commented that if the goal was to minimize risk as much as possible, it would be difficult to move forward with the programs. C/Simels noted that the mixing of cohorts for recreation would make contact tracing by the school difficult if someone got sick. C/Italiano noted that the State of NJ allows indoor sports under restrictions. If children are going other places to play sports, how do we police that. C/Randazzo noted that Recreation can only control what is in our ability to control. Aligning recreation youth programs with the BOE efforts to limit COVID spread makes sense. Limiting adult programs might not be necessary. Committeeman Morris commented that men's basketball is easier to start and stop versus youth programs. C/Italiano asked if there was a way for recreation to monitor the number of players that show up at the gym. Secretary DeFelice replied that recreation has no way of monitoring school facilities. C/Italiano asked if the BOE would have issues with mixing cohorts if the programs were outdoors and not in school facilities. A discussion ensued regarding the optics and complaints from various groups if some programs were cancelled and others moved forward. C/Morris asked what area towns have recreation programs going on indoors. Secretary DeFelice noted that most area towns cancelled early and did not even promote indoor programs. Allentown, East Windsor, Manalapan, New Egypt and Robbinsville did not offer indoor activities. This is why girls basketball was cancelled early since we rely on those towns to have interleague play. C/Randazzo noted that if the other towns cancelled early, we would have a hard time justifying moving forward with any specific indoor program. C/Lourenco asked about the status of various grades attending in class instruction. C/Italiano responded that the Primary School was virtual only, the Elementary school was hybrid, the 7th grade was virtual due to a recent outbreak and the rest of the Middle school was hybrid. C/Simels commented that the Commission has to do what it can to assist the BOE in keeping schools open. Committeeman Morris commented that youth programs have to be all on or all off. The men's program can be decided based on input from the Township Committee if the Commission can't decide.

A Motion to cancel youth recreation basketball programs was made by C/Adornetti and seconded by C/Randazzo. C/Adornetti; C/Randazzo, C/Simels, C/Lourenco, C/Strickland, C/Italiano voted in favor.

A Motion to suspend Warriors and Cheer indoor activities through February was made by C/Adornetti and seconded by C/Italiano.

C/Adornetti; C/Randazzo, C/Simels, C/Lourenco, C/Strickland, C/Italiano voted in favor.

A decision on men's basketball was tabled pending feedback from the Township Committee.

Pop Warner Cheer – C/Randazzo noted that the cheer season has been severely affected by COVID restrictions.

Flag Football – C/Strickland noted that registration is opened including the 5-7 year old group.

Soccer – C/Italiano noted that MUTS will be meeting to discuss opening dates and budget items. He will be meeting with Roman and Vinny to discuss changes to the recreation program. C/Simels asked if the other towns have opened up registration for interleague play. Secretary DeFelice noted that the area towns are late in advertising their season. The original goal was to offer interleague play for the Spring but that could change.

Wrestling – C/Lourenco noted that the season was cancelled this year. He will reach out to the coaches to see what they plan on doing next year.

Lacrosse – C/Lourenco noted that registration has been open.

Tennis – Secretary DeFelice will reach out to last year's instructors to see if we can get a Spring season going.

Millstone Day – C/Randazzo noted that they will be meeting later in the week to review plans

Millstone Park – Secretary DeFelice noted that they are getting pricing from electricians for lights for the flag pole, a timer for the street lights and the panel relay for allowing 2 factor authorization for field lights. Signs for the park regarding dog ordinances, park closing time and speed limits are at DPW and should be installed by March. The footing and slab for the new storage building has been poured. C/Strickland asked about the status of the ball fields. Committeeman Morris replied that the lights are installed. They are getting pricing for the backstops, fencing and dugouts.

C/Randazzo noted that she would like to add Program budgets as an agenda item each month so the Commission can get a better grasp on the financial viability of each program. In relation to the booster clubs, a statement at the beginning and end of each season would be all that is needed.

C/Adornetti moved to adjourn. C/Simels offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.