



Date: 12 October 2009
To: Board of Selectmen
From: R. H. Snow
Subject: Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

Moore Park

Three short (but big) logs remain to be cut & split and the cleanup of the wood by the Salt shed will be complete. I'm still planning to rent a chipper for a weekend to chip the remaining brush piles in the park, at no cost to the town. An additional wet area in the entrance path to the fields was filled in. Additional fill and the wood chips will be used to finish the area.

As the season winds down, many issues remain open. Some will be addressed with this year's budget. Some will need to be addressed next year. The significant levels of bacteria found in the water testing results need to be addressed. While the bathrooms were posted with "Do Not Drink the Water" signs, there is no guarantee that someone won't drink the water and become ill. Small children can't read and are particularly susceptible to harm. This issue needs to be addressed before the beginning of the 2010 season. Testing of the Town Well was also recommended and is, supposedly, being done on an annual basis by Stantec. I'm looking for the report(s). I am personally handling the opening & closing of the bathrooms for the remainder of the season, as a cost saving effort. Mowing of the ball fields will only be done on an as-needed basis for the remainder of the soccer season.

A grant for solar hot water heating has been discussed, would significantly improve the bathroom environments and will continue to be investigated. The bathroom windows are still scheduled to be done this year, along with the exhaust fan and the door closers. A complete redo of the bathrooms has been discussed with CYAA to address the water and other issues. A more secure locking system needs to be designed and installed for the winter months, to prevent access to the bathrooms. I'm looking at the possibility of moving the chain link fence that surrounds the old pitching practice area to the back side of the playground. Additional fencing needs to be purchased and installed to complete the perimeter of the playground. Study of the installation of a kid's sandpile in the park is underway. The picnic benches are starting to fall apart. The possibility of moving the park benches from the unused picnic area on the 55 High Street property, immediately across the street from the Town Office Building, is being considered. I fixed the most obvious fault on one of the park benches in the pavilion before Old Home Day and have the hardware necessary to do all the benches. It is, at best, a temporary fix. A board on one of the bleachers has also broken and needs to be replaced. The rest of the boards are of a similar vintage. The bleachers need to be redone with some form of non-degradable material. The budget to allow for a regular program of repairing and/or replacing worn out facilities and equipment on an annual basis should be addressed by a warrant article. The surface of the playground is getting thin and may well need to be redone before the end of the 3-year cycle. Expansion of this fund may be the appropriate vehicle for addressing the issues. Supplies need to be ordered and an inventory created of the playground equipment replacement parts, to restock the park parts storage case.



Skateboard Park

We still need to address the drainage along the road beside the park. It's draining thru the park, rather than down the road, depositing sand in the park. A relocation of some of the telephone poles should solve some of the problems.

Summer Recreation Program

I've discussed a program for next year with M&C and Liquid Planet and it was included in the BOS budget, as a fully user funded program. Funding for special events & transportation for the program was not recommended in the BOS budget. I'll be addressing the issue at every opportunity as we move thru the budget process to ensure that the voters have the opportunity to understand exactly what they're getting for their tax dollars now and what they can expect to get (or not get) with next year's budget.

Continuing Concerns, Issues and Questions

The parking area between the skateboard park and the town office parking lot by the police department was further improved by the Road Agent, opening up the area for parking spaces, something that continues to be sorely needed during events. The improvement of the area was part of a long term plan. We need to complete the rest of the plan, whatever it is.

We still need better parking control barriers in the park. What's a good source for those short cement saddles that would hold old telephone poles off the ground? What's a good source for old telephone pole donations? I'll try moving some of the ones we have around to more clearly define the traveled way and to better control erosion.

I intend to pick up the cost (\$120) of the person from Pinard that policed the area during the OHD event from the park budget. I also still need to find out the costs of the Road Agent's efforts to fix up the road areas in the park before OHD, so I can transfer the costs into the park budget.

Parking continues along the sides of the entrance road to the park, particularly in the WiFi "hot-spot" area. Some form of signage needs to be developed and installed.

A cleanup of the areas outside the ball park fencing needs to be done, to eliminate some of the poison ivy and to remove some of the accumulated grass, brush and other trash that is dumped there during the annual cleanups. I'll be working with the park users on this. .