



Date: 9 August 2010

To: Board of Selectmen

From: R. H. Snow

Subject: Parks, Other Culture & Recreation Monthly Report

Moore Park

Mowing of the ball fields has been suspended during the dry and hot weather, to allow the fields to regenerate themselves and the grass and clover to go to seed before we mow again for soccer season. The temporary softball field outfield fencing has been removed and stored in the CYAA building. Mowing will be done as a part of a general cleanup effort the weekend before Old Home Day. A volunteer work detail is being planned for the afternoon of Saturday, August 21st to rake and level the surface of the playground filling in the low areas and determining the volume of new material necessary to bring it back up to its required level. The height of the protective surfaces around the equipment is more than several inches less than required. A quote has been received for the material necessary to improve the surface in the playground.

Volunteers continue to provide cleanup and maintenance in the park. Daily opening and closing of the bathrooms and monitoring of the general condition of the park has been a volunteer effort this summer, freeing up the funds to fix the fencing around the playground. The public has responded well to the recycling efforts and the signs that the girl scouts made to help separate the trash from the recyclables seems to have really helped. Plastic continues to be the major recyclable in the waste stream, by a significant margin. Birthday parties appear to be a favorite activity for the pavilion. Weekly cleaning of the bathrooms and trash receptacles, as well as the transfer of the trash and recyclables to the recycling center is also a volunteer effort. A “Lost & Found” area has been established to attempt to return the valuable clothing and equipment that is left at the park back to its owners. Apparently, not everybody appreciates the effort, because the materials keep ending up in the trash barrels. Makes you wonder sometimes if the economy is as bad as some people say.

I’ve tested the use of some of the surplus yellow drain pipe to protect the top of one of the short fences between the scout cabin and the playground, with good results. The picnic bench has been returned to the basketball court area and I have the parts from another broken one. The picnic benches in the woods across from the town offices are going to be moved. Repair of the bleachers is also a priority, within the budget.

I’ve contacted the firm that supplied the playground equipment and a purchase order for the parts necessary to repair a piece of equipment has been generated. A review of the condition of the equipment in the playground is being conducted for the 2011 budget..

The bathrooms have been thoroughly cleaned and continue to be worked on, with repairs scheduled and additional work that needs to be done. The Building Inspector had agreed to draw the sample(s) for the water test. I don’t know if that was accomplished before he retired. That should be a priority before Old Home Day.



Save the Trees Campaign

I've put up some no parking signs to encourage people not to park their vehicles under the trees in the front of the park. Bill Cooper brought a couple loads of wood chips to use under the trees in the front of the park. More loads are needed and welcomed. The area has been seeded to white clover. Some of the red clover that was seeded last year is finally starting to show up.

Skateboard Park

I've removed the remaining wooden structures from the park. A new source for concrete ramps is being sought. I'm still planning to move and install telephone poles as parking barriers and drainage channelization devices. I have a quote for sealcoating the park surface from the vendor that just did the library parking lot. Donors have volunteered to pay for half the cost. The road agent cleared some trees and brush from the area between the salt shed and the skateboard park, opening up the area. I'm surprised, but also pleased at the small amount of trash that showed up in the underbrush. I did find some valuable materials left over from past ball field projects that will be reused. The brush pile around the leach field vent pipe has now been moved over to get it away from the skateboard park and to better serve its original purpose of protecting the pipe.

It's amazing the number and diversity of young people and families that use the skateboard park. On any given day, you're as likely to see preschool children riding their bikes while their parents watch, as you are to see teenagers doing tricks.

Summer Recreation Program

No applicants signed up for the program, so there will again be no program this summer. I'm working with the vendor to identify the amount necessary to appropriate next year to provide a subsidy for the program. I'm soliciting information from the public about why the program doesn't appear to be viable.

Old Home Day Celebration

The Old Home Day Committee continues to meet and I'm attending their meetings whenever possible. I am in the process of getting a sign for the park honoring, in some fashion, the donation of the property by Henry W. Moore. The Historical Society is helping with research. Old Home Day will also be used as an opportunity to recognize the value of our local volunteers and their efforts for the town. A general cleanup of the park will be done before the event.

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 last year by the Road Agent, opening up the area for



parking spaces, something that continues to be sorely needed during events. I'm working with the Road Agent to finish improving the area. A possible source for old telephone poles having suddenly appeared, the plan to purchase some concrete parking barriers for the area is on hold. I'm working with the Road Agent to more clearly define the traveled way and to better control parking, erosion and off-road damage. Early results of the success of our efforts were evident after the latest rain event. I will be marking off and flagging the new line for the parking lot before Old Home Day to allow the road agent to finish grading and clearing the parking area prior to installing the parking barriers. There appears to be a need for parking barriers on the back side of the town office parking lot.

Town Beautification Project

Publicity is going out about the contest and integrating it into the Old Home Day event. I'll be working with the Candia Garden Club and the Old Home Day committee, as well as the Road Agent to coordinate our efforts. Wood chips were spread around the perimeter of one of the gardens near the parking lot.