



Date: 13 April 2009
To: Board of Selectmen
From: R. H. Snow
Subject: Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

Moore Park

I've met with Steve Abelson, reviewed the 2008 expenditures and discussed the 2009 budget and to-date expenditures with him. FEMA has completed their review of the post ice storm damage cleanup costs and the actual cleanup of the park has started. The scouts have volunteered to help with the cleanup of the area of the park around the scout cabin. CYAA & the Moore School athletic programs are scheduling their annual spring cleanup / field day for the 18th/19th of this month. There is a conflict with the Girl Scouts Easter egg event on the 19th if the cleanup can't be completed on the 18th. It will be resolved. I met with the CYAA board and reviewed their use of Moore Park. I need to review existing agreements between them and the town. A Candia resident has volunteered to take down two old hazardous pine trees near the entrance to the park at no cost to the town. Being a volunteer effort, the schedule will have to be flexible. I appreciate the support of the board with this and will keep them informed. I'm intending to get the trees disposed of, either as logs or sugar wood, after they're down, also at no cost to the town. The road agent has done some cleanup work and patching on the road thru the park where there was damage or debris left from the winter plowing. Based on discussions with the road agent, we need to ensure that any work that gets done in the park that requires a town expenditure is charged to the Parks & Recreation budget line.

Summer Recreation Program

A local day care agency has approached the town with a request to use Moore Park for a summer youth camp, similar to the previous town summer recreation program. We have met several times and discussed a number of different, mutually beneficial, methods of achieving the goal of providing a safe and convenient program for our young people that can be both practical and affordable. I have spoken to both the CYAA and the school board about their interest in being involved with the effort. The CYAA has expressed their willingness to consider the matter. The school board has declined the opportunity to participate. I'm continuing to investigate the matter and intend to bring the applicant and a firm proposal to the board for their consideration and possible action at the next regular meeting in April.

Concerns, Issues and Questions

My personal assessment of the condition of the park is that it's looking a little shabby. I'd like to see what can be done, at no cost to the tax rate, to spruce it up and to start making sure that we don't lose any more of those magnificent old pines in the front of the park because of too much traffic or too little nutrition for them in their environment.

The playground is, and has been since its redo, a town jewel. It, the sport fields, the basketball court and the skateboard park provide an invaluable resource for our children and



grandchildren (as well as some of us older folks, also). We need to ensure that it not only stays viable, but that it improves over time. I will be proposing the establishment of a Candia Recreation Commission by the board and have attached a proposed warrant article for our next town meeting to see if the voters want to establish a recreation revolving fund to aid in this goal.

The bathrooms in the CYAA concession building will be opening soon. How will we be testing the quality/safety of the water? I didn't see anything in the financial reports that addressed that.

I will be talking with CYAA about removing the chain link fencing that used to enclose a pitching practice area near the road. I see no useful purpose for it and have future ideas that might better utilize the area.

The concerns about behavior at the skateboard park that were a problem several years ago seem to have disappeared. Is that a correct assessment?

The town has spent tens of thousands of dollars to create a "Currier & Ives" pond across the street from the town office building. I have yet to see any actual human activity on the pond during the winter, something that would seem to be a natural use of it. No skating parties, no pickup hockey games, nothing. Without intending to criticize and with all the respect due my esteemed colleague on the board, I'd like to suggest that the pond either be the responsibility of Parks & Recreation or a joint responsibility, so we can get some real live people enjoying it next winter.

Proposed Warrant Article

To see if the Town will vote to establish, in accordance with RSA 35-B:2, II, a recreation revolving fund and appoint the Candia Recreation Commission as agents to manage the fund. Further, to rescind the Playground Maintenance expendable trust fund created pursuant to RSA 31:19-a by Article 23 at the 1998 Town Meeting and to transfer the existing balance of the fund, principal and income, to the recreation revolving fund, said funds to be used for the same purposes as the previously existing expendable trust fund.