

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

Phone: 845-758-4625 Fax: 845-758-5313

Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting

Monday, 8 June 2009

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by John D. Kuhn, Park and Programs Director

Recreation Park and Programs

1. Recreation Park Extension – The Recreation Commission selection of Weston & Sampson was approved by the Town Board on 3 June 2009. Christine Chale, the Town Attorney, is working with us and Ted Kudzy to produce the official contract.
2. Willow Tree – S&S Tree Service of Rhinebeck provided an estimate of \$350.00 to trim the willow tree in right center of the baseball field. Trimming will prevent further falling limbs from damaging the outfield fence. S&S will put the limbs on the ground; we will cut them up and remove them ourselves.
3. 2009 Summer Programs Signups – Saturdays – 6 June and 13 – Signups are going well with a good turnout this past Saturday. The second Saturday is usually better attended.
4. Playground – Almstead Nursery and Mulch delivered the Engineered Wood Fiber 11 May and 12 May. This is an ASTM Certified product designed for playground use. Jeff Tremper and I spread the mulch immediately after delivery to avoid the dangers of having huge piles of material sitting in the playground area. If this material lasts as long as expected, we will not have to replace it until 2011. It should be noted that this provides a totally tick-free environment in the playground areas since ticks cannot negotiate the wood fiber material.
5. Parking Lots – The quote from Easy Street was the lowest received; I sent out a Purchase Order for this marking of both the north and south parking lots. Easy Street will contact us to set up a time to do this work.
6. Snack Bar Roof Fan - The thermostatically controlled vent fan in the attic of the Snack Bar requires replacement. Is this necessary?
7. St. Margaret's – Development of the St. Margaret's Home as a destination Park south of the Village of Red Hook for relaxation, picnicking, small family events, etc. is consistent with the Recreation Commission Mission Statement and fulfills one of the stated needs of the Recreation Needs Assessment done by Saratoga Associates in 1994.

Despite the considerable work clearing this site reported last month, much more clearing and cleanup is needed at the St. Margaret's. A stump grinder must remove the over 100 stumps of various sized trees. Fill must be brought in to cover roots, fill in deep holes, and to make the property "mow able."

Very large dead and damaged trees must be taken down professionally to avoid them hitting the house or garage or landing in the middle of Route 9.

Without this work completed, the site cannot be used safely. S&S Tree Service provided an estimate of \$1200.00 to put the dead and damaged trees and those that threaten the house on the ground. We would have to remove the wood.

I would like to see the grounds of St. Margaret's maintained by the Recreation Commission as a park on the south side of town. I would like to have an

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

Phone: 845-758-4625 Fax: 845-758-5313

appropriate amount of money budgeted to do this either through the St. Margaret's Committee or the Recreation Commission or through some shared arrangement of responsibility.

8. Skate Park Noise Issue – Barry Gurland, Rec Park neighbor, contacted me by email to inquire when the spray foam insulation will be installed to deaden the noise of the ramps. When the time is set, I will email him with the information.

9. John Deere 670 Tractor – As noted last month, the diesel shut off is not working. This requires us to hold it open with a plastic tie! There is a relay and a timer that must be replaced to correct this problem. Once again, we have not yet done this because Keil Equipment gave us an estimate of \$300 to repair it. As time allows, we will make an effort to repair it “in house” since a costly repair wipes out too much of our maintenance budget this early in the year when we don't know what other problems may arise. I would like to wait until near the end of the season to see how our budget is holding up before repairing the tractor.

10. Ball Fields – All fields have been seeded and fertilized several times now. Irrigation of the north and middle field outfields was necessary during the early dry weeks of April. The grass on these fields is doing well. The baseball infield is the best it has been in years! Jeff Tremper deserves credit for his painstaking care of the infield.

11. Baseball Scoreboard – The scoreboard is fully operational and was used by both high school JV and varsity baseball teams. Junior and Senior League teams also use the scoreboard for their games. Dedication by the Interact Club of Red Hook High School will be held when scheduled by the Interact Club. Carl Dowden, Interact Club advisor, has been kept informed of our progress. The combination to the lock box for the scoreboard controller has been given to Tom Cassata, RHCSA Athletic Director, so that the high school teams can use the scoreboard for home games. Charlie Nugent has the combination to give to all Junior and Senior League teams.

12. Wetlands Walk – I received a call about limbs blocking the trail, but when I went to check the limbs were small enough to just pick up and toss off to the side. From the nature of the call, I went up with the chain saw ready to cut up a huge tree!

13. Glass Block Repair – The restroom glass block windows were smashed out by vandals two years ago. We covered the remaining glass blocks on both sides with clear Lexan, but there is concern about privacy since one can look in somewhat through the shattered glass bricks. I solicited a quote to remove the damaged blocks and install new glass blocks. We would continue to use the Lexan that covers and protects both sides of each window. The total cost for this project is \$350.00. Shannon Miller has offered us free glass bricks which will reduce the cost of the project. Is this something the Commission wants to do?

14. Insurance Requirements for Leagues – As discussed last year we must decide whether we will require the Over 40 Softball League and the Men's Basketball League to carry their own special insurance to use our fields and court. We now require waivers from all participants. Is an insurance requirement the next logical step? It is too late to have this requirement for this year!

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

Phone: 845-758-4625 Fax: 845-758-5313

15. ATT Building – Update – Apparently the building will be donated free, but we must move it to the Rec Park. Steve Cole offered to get some prices from local contractors with cranes and lowboy trailers. To refresh your recollection, we inspected the concrete building on the water tower site offered to the town by ATT. The building would be perfect for Rec Park storage, and we could site it behind the old scoreboard between the north and middle fields. This building is so well constructed that it will outlast all the other buildings at the park. The ATT contact, Kevin Brennan at 845-453-7617 has been in touch with Supervisor Crane to discuss how we can acquire this building and move it to our site.

16. Tennis and Basketball Court Surfaces – Copeland Coating Company, Inc. inspected the court surfaces. The tennis courts can be repaired without difficulty when the temperature permits. However, the crack in the basketball court is a big problem with no obvious solution. There is now about ½” difference from one side of crack and the other. A temporary filling of the crack with some sort of caulk may be our only choice short of cutting out a major part of the court and putting in new blacktop.

17. Roller Hockey Rink – A significant hole in the surface of the court required repair. Copeland Coating provided the materials, and we did the repair ourselves. So far the repair is holding up, but further work will be required.

18. Snack Bar – Jim Tuton reports that the Snack Bar is functioning without problems. Some days have been lost to rain cancellations.

19. Basketball Court – Safety padding must be replaced on south backboard.

20. Coffee Tree – Some children attempted to climb into the coffee tree planted by the Tree Committee as part of last year’s Arbor Day tree plantings. One of the branches of the fork was broken; Jeff taped the fork back in place in an effort to give it a chance to heal. This tree was quite expensive and in time will be a spectacular addition to the park. It may be necessary to put a fence around this tree, although fencing it would not be terribly attractive.

21. Trees and Bushes – The new shrubs by the Snack Bar are all growing nicely; the coffee tree between the north and middle field is now blooming despite the damage to the one fork of the tree, and the maples in the south parking lot are all doing well. Every single tree planted last year is alive and flourishing. Jeff Tremper’s watering and care for these trees is noted and appreciated.

22. Playground Signs – Safety signs for the playground areas must be put up to avoid liability. I will submit prospective signs for Commission approval.

23. Dog Signs – I propose signs that state; *Dog Waste Transmits Disease – Protect our Children!* be purchased and put on the entry signs to the park.

23. North Field Damage – 25 tons of infield mix was delivered on 4 June to repair the damage to the infield done by Minor League coaches who removed standing water from the north field. They did extensive damage to the field that was impossible to correct without the purchase of infield mix. Damage to the infield lip and outfield grass is also considerable. Charlie Nugent has addressed this problem with these coaches to prevent a reoccurrence. Of most concern in this incident is the fact that the coaches allowed kids to play on a field that clearly was not safe. This could have resulted in serious injuries to players and serious liability for the Town of Red Hook. I posted the Ball Field Guidelines approved at

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

Phone: 845-758-4625 Fax: 845-758-5313

the May meeting in all the dugouts, the baseball shed, the snack bar storage room, and the dugout storage areas.

24. Field Closed Sign – One of our three *Field Closed – Do Not Play or Practice* signs was removed from the North Field and apparently stolen. We have searched the entire park to no avail. This sign cost \$70.00 to make two years ago!

25. Basketball League – Kevin Moul held the league meeting in the Pavilion at 8:15 p.m. on 3 June 2009. Kevin reports that there will be fewer teams this summer; the “hot head” teams are gone, and the serious teams remain! I must say that Kevin Moul has done an excellent job with this league. He will obtain signed waivers from every player before play begins.

26. Garbage Cans – Don Whipple garnered six more new 55-gallon drums for use as garbage containers at the park. This gives us a total of 12 new cans. These cans are especially desirable because they do not require cutting off the top with a torch. Hopefully, we can get a few more to replace the rusted cans remaining in the park.

27. Park Vandalism – No new graffiti has appeared in the park the last three weeks! Most of the paint surfaces have been repainted, but the graffiti on the maintenance building brick is a serious problem with no easy solution. We are researching different approaches to removing the paint without damaging the decorative brick. Sandblasting will damage the surface of the brick in addition to being expensive.

The only realistic way to remove it without damage to the brick is sandblasting. I will have to get an estimate for this work.

Someone stole an expensive metal *Field Closed – Do Not Play or Practice* sign from the North Field.

28. Golfing at the Park – One evening last week I spoke with a person at the park who appeared to be taking a golf club out of his trunk! I told him of the park rules prohibiting hitting golf balls at the park. He understood the need for such rules completely. Despite signage clearly prohibiting hitting golf balls at the Recreation Park, some folks manage to sneak in and hit balls onto the outfields and other areas. The balls nestle out of sight in the grass and are very dangerous for ball players. Also, when a golf ball is hit by the Z-Trak mower, it becomes a lethal projectile capable of seriously injuring someone.

29. Pavilion – The pavilion reservations continue at a record pace! The pavilion is used every single weekend and many week nights for parties, picnics, pre-school graduations, elementary and middle school play days. Sue McCann does the scheduling for the pavilion and the park and maintains a calendar of all users.

30. Mowing – The mowing is on schedule despite the rain! Because the park gets so much use during the day with outings, the mowing must be done early or late!

31. Volleyball Courts – Jeff Tremper and I put up the volleyball poles and nets. The courts will be lighted until 10:00 p.m. to accommodate the volleyball league. We repaired the tears in one net; it may need replacement next year. Both nets are set at 7 1/2' which is suitable for recreational volleyball games.

32. Basketball Camp Proposal – A copy of the proposal is attached for your consideration. Pam White would like a decision as soon as possible.