

# **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

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## **RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Monday, 10 February 2020**

Submitted by John D. Kuhn, Park and Programs Director

### **Red Hook Rod & Gun Club Fishing Contest**

Pete Heitmann presented a proposal for the 2020 fishing contest. It is planned for Saturday, 11 April with fish stocked on Friday, 10 April. The contest would begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude in the early afternoon. Because of all the construction at the park, it may be necessary to cancel or to modify the fishing contest to assure the safety of all participants. Much will depend upon when the restrooms are renovated and when the blacktop paths at the playground and through the park are done. This will have to be thought through carefully to avoid problems. The availability of the Snack Bar kitchen is also uncertain. Kate Cavotti has been informed of the dates and times Pete Heitmann is aware of the possible problems at the park. I will contact him to keep him apprised of park availability. Pete is will to have portable toilets brought in for the day if our restrooms are not available.

The Recreation Commission purchases \$400 worth of hatchery fish so support this contest.

### **RHCS D Use of Softball and Baseball Fields**

The uncertainty of when the park will be safely available for use may impact the interscholastic spring softball and baseball practices and games. I have notified Tom Cassata, athletic director of this possibility.

### **Turco Golf, Inc. & All-Purpose Field**

The excavation part of the project appears to be over. The drainage system under the field is installed. Layers of fabric and stone will be the next phase. The dirt removed from the field is stockpiled in the bus parking area of the south parking lot.

### **Pickleball Court Lighting**

When the six telephone pole were removed from the middle field this, two of them snapped and the other four are in poor condition. They will not be suitable for lighting on the pickleball courts. The lighting needs for the courts must be professionally determined. Perhaps two aluminum poles with LED lights would be enough for the four courts. There are two 120 volt lines – one on each side of the courts that may be adequate for the lighting.

### **Snack Bar Electrical Service**

Hitchcock Electric has completed the updating and renovation of the electrical service in the Snack Bar Storage Room to accommodate the new Musco LED lighting on the Middle Field. There are breakers in the new panels that must be labeled in the spring. Labels are required by our insurance carriers.

Space for a separate panel was left for the installation on the Musco field lights. Tighe & Bond Engineers tell me that there will be switches on the outside of the panel for different lighting configurations for different uses. This will make it so that no one I will to open the panel to turn them on and off.

### **North Parking Lot – Main Service Line**

The new power line runs along the southern edge of the parking lot. Cars insist on parking off the blacktop directly over the service line. I am told that this may

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cause the new line to fail over time. Perhaps the four telephone poles can be placed as a barrier to prevent cars from parking over the power line??

## **Wooden Posts by Pool Parking Lot**

As noted in last month's report, this temporary fencing consists wooden posts drilled to allow nylon cord to connect the posts. This prevents pool users from entering or exiting the park in any spot other than the DCDOT designated spot on Linden Avenue. We will replace the wooden post with metal one this spring because the wooden post are broken off and require constant repair. We will use the metal posts saved from the middle field. When Turco removed the heavy duty vertical posts from the middle field, I selected 20 of the best and cut them to six feet. These will be drilled, painted white, three levels of rope will be threaded through the holes, poles will be placed 10 feet apart, and NO EXIT signs will be mounted on four of the posts.

## **Skate Park Improvements**

Upgrades to the Skate Park Equipment are planned for 2020. The American Ramp Company that designed, built and installed the existing skate park is once again developing a proposal for the guidelines outlined with Chris Hoffman who owns the Board Shop in the village. We should receive this information along with costs shortly.

## **Recreation Park West Development**

This past week Fastracs installed the foul poles on the ball field. Fencing and gates are next. The drawings are available for review. There will be no play on this field in 2020. I noticed that someone drove in the entrance and turned around on the grass leaving huge ruts that will require repair in the spring.

## **Storage Barn Light Fixtures**

Some of the fluorescent fixtures need new ballasts and/or bulbs. I would prefer to replace the T-11's with LED Daylight Tubes, but we will have to see where we stand with the budget since these lights cost \$25.00 apiece. LED bulbs provide better light and are not affected by cold temperatures like fluorescents bulbs in addition to being less expensive to operate. It may be wiser to replace the existing fixtures with new LED fixtures as we did in the men's restroom. LED fixtures have diodes not bulbs and supposedly last forever.

I will install an LED motion security light above the overhead door of the storage barn. The current light no longer operates despite having a new bulb, and a new sensor for that model is unavailable.

## **Summer Recreation Playground**

The hiring of a director and assistants for this program must begin now. The Board of Health requirements must be addressed early as well. Ari Spiesberger is unavailable for this summer and Leslie Martin may not return, I would like to offer one of the director positions to Nanda Fogle who worked as a counselor this past summer. She is a Bard College graduate who will earn her Master's Degree in May also from Bard. She is quite a dynamic individual who relates especially well to the camp youth. Ari Spiesberger recommends her highly.

He also recommends Emily Walshin who ran the Tivoli program last summer. Emily is a Bard student.

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I contacted Nanda Fogle, and she is interested in the position. I left a message for Emily Walshin, and I expect to hear from her soon.

Once directors are hired, the process of hiring the assistants can begin.

I met with Ari Spiesberger on Sunday, 2 February to review the needs of the Summer Recreation Playground. In addition to recommendations for directors, he suggested hiring someone specifically to handle the paperwork, the sign in and sign out process, the Board of Health documentations required daily, and the accidents and incidents that require documentation. Now that we have to meet all the requirements of a day camp, the paperwork is considerable.

Perhaps his most significant recommendation is to have a set date to end all program signups. Allowing participants to show up and register every day creates a high level of chaos that disrupts the camp operation. I believe that he is correct in this recommendation and propose that signups end the week before the camp opens. Having a set participant population would permit setting up pre-printed sign in and sign out sheets for the whole five weeks. This past summer I was creating new sheets every day! The other summer programs have 20-60 participants. Signups during the program are less of a problem. When 100-250 participants are involved it is a nightmare!

## **Musco Lighting Bases**

As noted in the email I sent out to the Recreation Commission on 4 February, the concrete bases for the new LED field lights were installed on the all-purpose field last week. The lights will be installed on 17 February if weather permits. The open dirt area can become very slick when wet, but hopefully it will dry out by the seventeenth. The height of the bases emphasizes the amount of stone fill the field will require. Each base is 30" in diameter, 17' long or 20' long.

## **Town of Red Hook Website**

During the past month I have been working with Jackie Fenaroli and Lori Pierce to learn how to post agenda, reports, programs forms, etc. on the Town of Red Hook Website using CivicPlus. The next step will be to learn how to post in real time from remote locations. I find CivicPlus somewhat cumbersome and not overly user friendly, but it time hope to have everything under control.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we need to have instant communication with parents and the community at large. For the summer programs we need to have notifications in real time through the Town of Red Hook website.

On-Line Signups is also a 21<sup>st</sup> Century necessity. This will also have to be developed through the Town of Red Hook website. There will probably have to be two signup days for those without computer access, but that will involve only a few folks. The logistics of creating hard copies for each program director will have to be worked out.

## **Basketball Court Markings & Colors**

The basketball court markings will be the same green and blue with white lines as the tennis courts and the pickleball courts. When repairs are required, having the same colors on all courts makes the most sense.

## **Daktronics Scoreboard\**

The Nevco Scoreboard selected for the all-purpose field does not offer a five-year warranty. Consequently, Tighe & Bond Engineers recommend installing a

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Daktronics Scoreboard of the same size. This scoreboard also comes with a protective screen to prevent damage from baseballs. The controls on our current Daktronics scoreboard on the baseball field have proved to be very poor. I am assured that the controls for this new scoreboard will not have the same problems. The protective screen not offered by Nevco is a good addition.

## **Recreation Park East Phase Two Bids**

The bids for phase two were opened on Friday, 7 February. Six bids were received. The Town Board will discuss the bids and either accept a bid or reject all bidders by 15 February 2020. A Bid Tabulation is available for review in the Recreation Office.

## **Pickleball Court Center Straps**

Paul Hughes will install the ground sleeves for the center court tie-down straps before the courts open in the spring. I spoke with Paul on the phone last week, and we are on his schedule as the weather permits.

All pickleball posts and nets were removed for the winter and are stored in the tennis shed next to the maintenance building and fuel shed.

## **Park Closed Signs**

The locked gates and park closed signs have done little to stop park users. Those who walk the mushy track leave deep footprints that will have to be repaired in the spring. Because we cannot keep people from using the playground, I have regularly removed fallen limbs and other debris from the playground. It is impossible to close the park effectively.

## **Garbage Cans and Dumpster**

Four garbage cans and four recycling containers are left in the park for the winter. Joe Coon and I emptied them into the dumpster last Thursday along with garbage from the Red Church Cemetery. On Friday I opened the south parking lot gate at 7:00 a.m. so that Welsh Sanitation could empty the overflowing Rec Park dumpster. This was a one-time pickup only and regular service will not begin again until late March or early April.

## **Mutt Mitts**

I refilled the Mutt Mitt dispensers this winter whenever they were empty to encourage park dog walkers to pick up after their pets. Given the amount of pet waste now littering the park ball fields and track, it appears many did not wish to use the bags we provide.

## **Cutting of Construction Fencing**

The construction fencing is orange plastic. When some folks find the fencing blocking their way, they simply cut the fence and walk through. Keeping up with repairs to the fencing is tedious but necessary.

## **Soil Piles in South Parking Lot**

I would like to have five or six truckloads of this soil taken to the Red Church Cemetery for the filling of sunken graves.

I would also like to have four or five loads delivered to St. Margaret's Home to cover the exposed roots on the North Lawn and to cover the ballast rock exposed by the driveway entrance to make the property easier and safer to mow.

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Some of the soil is needed to complete the synthetic field and for repairs around Rec Park East. The rest of the soil should be taken to the south part of Rec Park West.

The Highway Department does not remove the sanders from the trucks until the middle of April. By then we should know how much soil must be moved.

## **Soil Pile in Rec Park West**

I am told that there may be extra soil from the project at Rec Park West. This soil should be moved to the south part of Rec Park West as well. Having soil on site for the constant repairs needed on ball fields and other parts of the park would be a big help. Not having to buy it would be a major savings.

## **Storage of Synthetic Field Groomer**

We currently do not have room in the maintenance building or the storage barn to put the groomer. The manufacturer recommends interior storage of the groomer. Simply throwing a tarp over it when not in use is probably a bad idea since it would be vulnerable to vandalism.

## **Synthetic Field Dugout Concrete Pads**

Once the field is finished, there will be two concrete pads with rebar sticking out of them waiting for the dugouts to be built. Dugout construction is not part of the Turco project; they are to be built by us separately. An RFP must be written soon if the dugouts are to be ready in the spring. The idea would be to use local masons.

## **Synthetic Field Lines**

The Supervisor, Doug Strawinski, Ryan Morrison from Tighe & Bond and I met to discuss the colors for the lines on the synthetic field. The baseball markings will be in white. The rectangular all-purpose field markings will be in black. The yellow was too bright and the greens were too close in color to provide clear definition of boundaries. Black is the least distracting for the baseball field, and it provides enough delineation for the all-purpose field.

## **RHCSD Girls' Softball Tournament**

This tournament may have to be cancelled in April.