



## Town of Candia – Interoffice Memorandum

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**Date:** 8 June 2009

**To:** Board of Selectmen

**From:** R. H. Snow

**Subject:** Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

### **Moore Park**

The cleanup of the logging operation in the front of the park continues. There are several large logs left, along with a small brush pile and the Moore School Ag Day habitat demonstration project. The wood is all reserved, the effort now is to get the best and most valuable use of the wood. Several students created posters for the Ag Day project and I'm inviting them to our next meeting for a thank-you and photo opportunity. One of the byproducts of the need to take down the trees was a greater awareness of the poor condition of some of those grand old pine trees in the area. I have contacted the state and the county forester for opinions on steps we can take to protect them. Compaction of the soil, lack of nutrients in the soil covering the area and damage to the root systems, both from mowing the area and cars parking under the trees are problems that I'll be addressing, thru a public awareness campaign and modification of the environment around the trees. I've stopped mowing the area, something that will not only protect the trees but save some money. I brought several loads of wood chips to the park from the East Candia Depot parking area. The state left them there when they chipped after the ice storm. I've started spreading them out along the sides of the road coming into the park. I'll be doing more of that, as I find no-cost sources of chips. I have an offer of the use of a chipper, at no cost, and may use that offer to chip some of the remaining brush piles and spread them under the trees..

With the advent of Spring and warmer weather, usage of the park has increased noticeably. I've been talking with Steve Abelson to work out an efficient, practical and cost effective maintenance program, while maintaining the level and quality of benefit that it provides to the public. He and I are going to be developing a maintenance task and schedule document for the park to ensure that we all understand what needs to be done and who's responsible for doing what and when. I've also been working with CYAA to better understand their needs and to develop a good working relationship with them. They have a no-cost water testing capability and the results will be available shortly. Mowing of the ball fields is being done, when and as necessary. All-in-all, the park is looking pretty good.

Two priorities that were (and are being currently) addressed are the bathrooms and the disposal of trash. As noted last month, the water system in the building was destroyed this winter. CYAA has done yeoman work fixing the problems, but efforts are still in-process. Only one of the bathrooms is currently operational, causing some issues. CYAA is actively working to replace the water lines. I've removed the "Gentlemen" sign from the door of the working bathroom, because the girls playing softball apparently believed that there was no bathroom available for them and were using the bathroom in the Town Office Building, creating the impression that the bathrooms were not being opened. I've installed new fixtures in the bathrooms for toilet paper and am conducting a study to determine the lowest cost source for toilet paper. It's actually more complicated than one might imagine. There are fixtures



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currently available for paper towels. I need to find a source for supplies. There is a soap dispenser in one bathroom but not in the other. I need to find a fixture, as well as a source of soap. I've acquired two new plungers for the toilets and need an additional toilet bowl brush. I could use a storage cabinet to keep cleaning supplies in and have asked the Recycling Center staff to keep their eyes open for something that would work. There is room in either (or both) of the bathrooms for them, but we would need a way to close and lock them. Assistance from the recycling department would be appreciated.

I've chained four trash containers to four different support beams in the pavilion and installed signs above each one to get the public to help separate recyclables from the trash. I spent several hours last Friday, after the first week with the signs available, sorting out the containers into recyclables and trash to see how well the signs worked. I was pleasantly surprised by the general level of comprehension and compliance. It wasn't perfect, but I'd realized, as I was putting up the signs and watching how the public responded to them, that I'd neglected to realize that the younger kids couldn't read and therefore, didn't have a clue about what they were supposed to do. I'll be developing visual clues for them, to go along with the signs. I ended up with a 55 gallon bag of plastic a bag and a half of trash and a small amount of aluminum cans. I suspect, though I can't prove it, that someone is helping us with the collection and disposal of aluminum cans. I'll be continuing to add additional containers in the areas that aren't adequately covered and see how it works. I could use a small (13 gallon) waste basket for one of the bathrooms. Anyone that knows of an extra one, let me know.

### **Skateboard Park**

I cleaned up the trees around the skateboard park that were down or damaged by the ice storm, disposed of the wood and piled the brush in the area of the leach field. I may just leave it there to keep people away from the leach field vent pipe. A meeting of the Skateboard Park Users Association has been scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>, in the library meeting room at 7:00 PM, to get the kids using the park more involved in managing the area. There are a number of improvements needed. I anticipate that some of them can be accomplished this year, with the help of the town, interested parties and a little luck.

I've asked Steve Abelson **NOT** to clean up the area around the skateboard park, because I want to get the kids to police their own area. There are two trash containers there now, one by the picnic table and one at the road. I will be adding one more (at least) on top of the leach field, to see if I can get the bottle and cans separated. Even without paying to get the area cleaned, it's in decent shape. I'll be working with the kids to see what we can accomplish by giving them ownership in the process.

### **Summer Recreation Program**

The program is currently on-hold. Two signup nights were held last month with little interest being shown by the public. The program providers have agreed to hold off on a final decision until later in the month. Current program targets are for a minimum of 20 participants



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with an optimum number of 40 and a maximum of 60. There are several minor issues with the proposed contract that will be addressed when and if necessary.

### Concerns, Issues and Questions

I took down two dead pine trees and a broken birch tree in the road between the skateboard park and the town office parking lot by the police department last weekend. The pines were dead because that's where we put the citizen's sand/salt pile during the winter months. We need to find a better place next winter. The trees also were using up several parking spaces, something that is sorely needed during ball games. I left lots of stump standing and the brush is piled between the two stumps. If the Highway Dept. or someone else can figure out how to remove the stumps and let me know when it's going to happen, I'll move the brush pile. Be forewarned, there is lots of poison ivy in the brush pile.

We 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?

Having hot water in the bathrooms would provide a healthier environment for the public. I believe that the concession stand has hot water. I'm going to be looking into the possibility of grant money to install a solar heat source to supplement the CYAA water heater, making it practical to provide hot water for the bathrooms.

I've asked Matt Zolla (CYAA) to price out two windows for the bathrooms. Both had broken glass and one was also rotted out. Having a source of outside light and ventilation is critical for the usefulness of the bathrooms and I intend to get them and install them if the cost is reasonable. I also purchased two automatic door closers and will be installing them on the bathroom doors. I've been purchasing supplies and equipment for the park out-of-pocket until I find out what works and what doesn't. That which does, I'll be submitting requests for reimbursement and that which doesn't, I'll keep for my personal use. I intend to charge the majority of the costs for putting the bathrooms in working order, including our share of the costs incurred by CYAA, into the "opening & closing the park" budget line.

An issue came up regarding a request for use of the park by a non-resident for a birthday party and was resolved. I'm reviewing the park policies & procedures and the forms related to park use. I'll have recommendations for revisions at a later meeting.