



Date: 14 September 2009
To: Board of Selectmen
From: R. H. Snow
Subject: Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

Moore Park

The cleanup of the wood by the Salt shed is almost complete. Those logs that I couldn't lift into my pickup, I split on-site until they were small enough to handle. I'll continue to cut & split until they're all gone. The Moore School Ag Day habitat demonstration project behind the salt shed was successfully used for pictures and publicity during Old Home Day. I need to chip up some brush on my property, so I'm planning to rent a chipper for a weekend to do that. I'll chip the remaining brush piles in the park at the same time, at no cost to the town. The park was in good shape for Old Home Day and the efforts made it evident that we need to add a line in the budget to cover Old Home Day expenses. The Road Agent touched up the roads in the park area and moved some of the wood chips from the cemetery to the park area for me. Thanks! The wet areas along the sides of the roads were filled and the wood chips spread over them and under the trees in the front of the park. The "Save the Trees" campaign was kicked off at Old Home Day, with some success. It will continue. There is one area on the east side of the entrance road near High Street that is being used frequently for parking and is becoming very muddy and rutted. We need to address the issue with the Smyth Library. The parking results from public use of the libraries WiFi network and is apparently being publicized as a "Hotspot". While the public use is certainly acceptable, it would make more sense (and help preserve the environment of the park) if they parked over on the 55 High Street paved area.

I spent the month of August again proving out the maintenance program and personally handled the disposal of trash, reducing expenditures. The public continues to be very helpful separating recyclables from the trash. I'm particularly impressed by the efforts of the skateboard park users. There isn't any noticeable trash around that area. The maintenance task and schedule document for the park will be used to price out next year's expenditures. I'm continuing discussions with the CYAA and other regular users of the park.. The grant for solar hot water heating has been discussed and will continue to be investigated. The water testing results came in and, while there was no indication of e-coli bacteria, there were significant levels of other bacteria found in the samples. The bathrooms were posted with "Do Not Drink the Water" signs. The health Officer was notified and testing of the Town Well was recommended. Conversion of the ball fields from baseball/softball to soccer has been completed. All-in-all, the park continues to look very good.

CYAA wasn't able to replace the bathroom windows last month. We still plan to get it done this year, along with the exhaust fan and the door closers. The sand/clay pile was moved to a better location. There is now one low area next to the pavilion that I need to fill in and cover with chips. The paintings from the recycling center collection that were installed in the bathrooms are still there and doing well. Study of the installation of a kid's sandpile in the park is underway.



More benches are starting to fall apart. The possibility of moving the park benches from the unused picnic area on the 55 High Street property, immediately across the street from the Town Office Building, is being considered. I fixed the most obvious fault on one of the park benches in the pavilion before Old Home Day. A board on one of the bleachers has also broken and needs to be replaced. We need to look at the budget to allow for a regular program of repairing and/or replacing worn out facilities and equipment on an annual basis. Supplies need to be ordered and an inventory created of the playground equipment replacement parts, to restock the park parts storage case.

Skateboard Park

Another meeting of the Skateboard Park Users Association will be held soon to continue the effort to get the kids using the park more involved in managing the area. There are a number of improvements that I hope will be accomplished this year, with the help of the town, interested parties and a little luck. I've been monitoring the area around the skateboard park and the kids are policing their own area, again reducing expenditures. Using volunteer labor and self-motivation, the park is in decent shape. We still need to address the drainage along the road beside the park. It's draining thru the park, rather than down the road, depositing sand in the park. A relocation of some of the telephone poles should solve some of the problems.

Summer Recreation Program

I've discussed a program for next year with M&C and included it in the budget. I'm continuing to conduct informal polling to see why it didn't generate any interest this year. Several residents have provided information. The proposed budget will ask the Town to help with a level of funding for specific parts of the program.

Current Concerns, Issues and Questions

The parking area between the skateboard park and the town office parking lot by the police department was further improved by the Road Agent, opening up the area for parking spaces, something that continues to be sorely needed during events. The improvement of the area was part of a long term plan. We need to complete the rest of the plan.

We still 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? I'll try moving some of the ones we have around to more clearly define the traveled way and to better control erosion.

I intend to pick up the cost (\$120) of the person from Pinard that policed the area during the OHD event from the park budget. I also need to find out the costs of the Road Agent's efforts to fix up the road areas in the park before OHD, so I can transfer the costs into the park budget.