



Date: 9 July 2012

To: Board of Selectmen

From: R. H. Snow

Subject: Parks, Other Culture & Recreation Monthly Report

Moore Park / Playground / Skateboard Park / Basketball Court

The park is busy, as usual, with families and kids using the facilities on a daily basis. The playground in particular is rarely empty. Repairs to the playground equipment are on-going, but frustratingly slow. We're in the process of gathering names of volunteers to help us with an **unofficial** "Playground Patrol".

The temporary fencing around the front ball field has been removed and stored for next year and the soccer field mowed. We'll now let the clover go to seed before we mow it again for the start of soccer season or Old Home Day, whichever comes first.

The Candia Community Woman's Club is selling tickets to the [Sunday July 22nd](#) NH Fisher Cats [1:35](#) game . They will be playing the Portland Sea Dogs!! This will be a fun family afternoon while supporting a CCWC fundraiser! Tickets are \$12.00 each and proceeds will benefit Moore Park & Playground. Your support of our park facilities is encouraged!

The suggestion has been made that we find a way to put in some shuffleboard courts. Perhaps on the lawn between the library and the 55 High Street parking lot? I'd appreciate any feedback that you might have about this or any other ideas for additions to our equipment or facilities. We're always looking to improve our services to the community.

We now have two functioning lawnmowers that we're storing for and sharing with, the cemetery department. We haven't changed the concept of having fields and forest, rather than lawns, in Moore Park. We mow what is being used there and let the grass reseed itself wherever possible, to improve the soil and save money. Naturally, we monitor for ticks and mosquitoes as necessary. We do have two large pine trees in the front of the park that have finally succumbed and will have to be taken down, an unanticipated expense. It's interesting that our history speaks of the Moore Park Grove being decimated by the 1937 Hurricane. That would make those large pines (100 footers!) in the front 75 years old. Preserving that Pine Grove for posterity is important. We're planning to replant that side of the front with young trees. Watch for them and see how fast they grow.

Summer Recreation Program(s)

I'm continuing to work with the public and providers to implement summer recreation program suggestions for the 2012 season. I've been approached by two different individuals interested in providing specific programs using our facilities, one for tennis and the other for child fitness activities. No additional contact has been made on the tennis. The ActiveJr. Program has been advertised thru the school and the website and negotiated with Town/CYAA shared facility use. They ran a successful small group session last week and have reduced their prices to see if that will generate interest.



Pond Park and Gazebo Area

The area is receiving regular lawn mowing in conjunction with the Smyth Public Library lawn area. I'm looking for the site plan that is referenced in the agreement between the library and the town to more clearly define the areas of authority and responsibility. I'm also looking for the agreement between the school district and the town regarding the parking lot area adjacent to the school. There were several dead trees removed from the area around the Gazebo to reduce the possibility of having someone get hurt by falling limbs. We're also working with the library on the possibility of funding a summer program for kids during their summer concert series with "Other Culture" operating funds.

Fitts Museum and Soldiers Monument

A review of the department electric bills highlighted an issue where there are two separate meters feeding the Fitts Museum property. I'm working with PSNH and the Museum Trustees to see how we can go to a single feed point, eliminating the duplicate monthly meter charge for the second meter.

Old Home Day Celebration

Preparations are underway for the use of Moore Park and the parking lot at 55 High Street for the event. We hope to have a Parks & Recreation booth to recognize volunteer efforts and the Candia Beautification Contest. The Candia Garden Club has a list of sites reserved and several private parties are looking at specific road triangles. More information is forthcoming, as time permits.

Budget Season Preparation

As the Department Head of these departments and also the selectman responsible for working with the town departments to monitor the expenditures and receipts for the current year and developing our budget numbers for next year, I'd like to and am planning on communicating my understanding of "zero-based budgeting" and how it relates to these departments and the town budget development process. Keep an eye on the Town Website "Parks & Recreation" Department site. A work-in-progress. Volunteers and ideas welcomed!

Riverside Park Picnic Area

Concept under development. See me for details...

Thanks to the public for helping keep the parks clean and save tax \$\$\$!