

# 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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**Monday, 11 September 2017**

Submitted by John D. Kuhn, Park and Programs Director

## **2017 Summer Recreation Programs**

I am awaiting final reports and attendance summaries from program directors. Reports and Program Notebooks and reports were due on Friday, 1 September 2017, and most have been received. Once all the Program Reports are received, I will compile them for review by the Recreation Commission.

## **2017 Tennis Court Rebuild**

Luizzi Brothers were awarded the contract to rebuild the tennis courts. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Friday, 15 September 2017. Tighe & Bond Engineers will oversee the construction.

## **USTA Grant Process Application**

I have continued communication with Lynne Schachte our USTA Facility Consultant for our Project #10583. All information from the engineers from Tighe & Bond is forwarded to USTA for consideration by their grant review board. I have compiled a notebook of all correspondence, drawings, cost estimates, etc. that is available for review at any time in the Recreation Office at the Town Hall. The USTA did the first engineering review of our grant request last week. I forwarded the questions to Ryan Morrison of Tighe & Bond for answers. I have talked to Ryan who will provide us with his answers before they are submitted to the USTA.

## **Ball Field and Pavilion Use/Hannaford Cancer Cure Fundraiser**

Hannaford has reserved the park ball fields and the pavilion from 8:00 – 6:00 p.m. on 13 September for their annual cancer fundraising event.

## **Park Maintenance and Mowing Schedule**

Mowing at the Recreation Park is now mostly caught up! Working around the Summer Recreation Playground and the other Summer Programs requires that field grooming and mowing be done when kids are not present for safety reasons. Baseball games are played on the weekends with practices during the week so mowing and field grooming is done seven days a week!

## **Basketball Court Guardrail**

Park Staff stained the guard rail in front of the basketball court. This must be done every two years.

## **Rahn Groomer Installation on Diesel Gator**

We installed the wiring harness necessary to run the actuator on the new Rahn Groomer that is used to groom the ballfields every day. We will soon have the ability to groom fields with either Gator.

## **John Deere Gas Gator**

This Gator is used every day to groom the ball fields. Purchased in February 2004, the drive chains and sprockets may require replacement. The Gator still runs well despite operating in the dust and dirt of the ball fields every day, so I recommend sending it for professional repairs. Once the new groomer is installed on the Diesel Gator, the Gas Gator will be sent to Keil Equipment for a repair estimate.

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## **Pin Oak Tree by Preschool Playground**

On Friday, 1 September 2017, Everhart Tree Service arrived at 7:00 a.m. to trim the Pin Oak Tree in the Pre-School Playground and to remove all dead and damaged limbs on all the other trees in the playground and North Parking Lot areas. Park Staff worked overtime to cut up and process all the limbs and completed the cleanup by raking the playgrounds.

## **Locust Trees in School-Aged Playground**

Two locust trees remain in the School-Aged Playground that are suspect. We have removed eight locust trees over the years with one locust tree in the playground area falling on its own barely missing the Pavilion. In October the two locust trees should be removed if there is enough money remaining in the budget. Once again Park Staff will handle all the cleanup and remove all the wood to keep the cost of the tree work reasonable.

## **John Deere 670 Tractor Repairs**

We installed the new light bar and taillights on the JD670. Unfortunately, the lights do not work so additional trouble shooting is required. This will be done as soon as we are finished with several other more pressing projects.

The town purchased the three-cylinder diesel JD670 tractor in March of 1990. After 27 years with good maintenance and very few needed repairs, this tractor should last for many more years. Replacing the broken light bar, tail lamps, PTO Switch, and the seat are now necessary. While the diesel engine has many hours on it, it is not leaking oil or losing power. This is the tractor that bush hogs the Rec Park West Extension.

## **Fall Softball and Baseball Practices and Games at the Recreation Park**

The schedules for two fall softball teams and two fall baseball teams are now finalized. Practices are held during the week. All games are played on the weekends! This requires continued special attention to the fields on both Saturdays and Sundays. While it is great to have so many youth participating in the fall leagues, it requires many hours of field preparation seven days a week. Copies of the softball and baseball schedules are available in the Recreation Office at the Town Hall.

## **Over-40 Softball League**

The Championship Playoffs are underway and will conclude next week if the weather is cooperative. Jeff Tremper prepares and lines the fields every night in accordance with our agreement with the Over-40 Softball League. Dave Wright, Over-40 Softball League President purchases the marking lime. Jeff Tremper had to rebuild the marking machine because lime had "cemented" and broken the moving parts. Outfield lines were done with paint to save time. Jeff will be paid out the Special Projects budget line.

## **Dutchess County Workmen's Compensation Inspection**

Today, Monday 11 September 2017, a Dutchess County Workmen's Compensation inspector visited the Recreation Park to identify any safety or code violations. I walked the park with her, opened all buildings and sheds, and answered all questions. She took several pictures of electrical service boxes and overhead light hookups. A report will be provided that recommends changes and/or violations that must be corrected.

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## **Eagle Scout Project**

Jim Melitski of Red Hook Troop 42 will assemble six-foot aluminum frame benches with Trex-Style boards and install them along the Mountain View Trail located in Recreation Park West. The Recreation Commission must approve the bench selection. I met with Jim Melitski at the Recreation Park and discussed several possible ideas that would be suitable for his Eagle Scout Project. The benches were a good choice especially if they are maintenance free and built with galvanized frame and plastic composite backs and seats that can withstand all sorts of weather.

## **Redesign and Replanting of Recreational Park of Red Hook Sign Area**

The Town of Red Hook Tree Committee studied the area by the sign and developed a recommendation for improvement. George Michael and Dave Grover came to the park on Thursday, 7 September to implement the plan with the Park Staff assisting in the removal of all trees and brush. Two Hawthorne Trees were removed roots and all with our JD4120 Tractor, the bushes behind the sign were trimmed back, the damaged shrubs in front of the sign were removed, and the entire area was edged, spaded, and mulched. The poison ivy behind the sign was also dug out. Six Spirea were planted in front of the sign to replace the removed shrubs. The two large evergreen trees on the north side of the lawn were trimmed up extensively to allow for mowers to pass safely underneath. We also raked up hundreds of pine cones.

This project is a major improvement to the park entrance. The work of the Tree Committee is much appreciated.

## **Knights of Columbus Flag Football**

Practices begin this week for flag football teams with games beginning on Saturday, 16 September 2017. The Knight of Columbus coordinator is Jay Kenny (347-247-2136 Email: [jkennyelectric@gmail.com](mailto:jkennyelectric@gmail.com)) who lined the fields this past week for play.

## **Volleyball Poles and Nets**

Park Staff removed and stored the two volleyball poles and nets and installed the ground caps so that flag football can be played on the All-Purpose Field. The Volleyball Court lights have been turned off for the season.

## **Tennis and Volleyball Court Lights**

Installing LED lighting on the tennis courts (eight lights) and the volleyball courts (two lights) is something the Recreation Commission should consider for 2018. The success of the LED lights on the basketball court suggests that trying to maintain obsolete 35-year-old fixtures is a poor strategy. LED lights provide better lighting at a lower cost with less maintenance. The cost estimate for replacing the 10 lights is less than \$8,000 if the cost is similar to the four replaced on the Basketball Court (\$3,000). Money collected from User Fees would most likely cover the cost of new lights. As you know, user fees are to be used for capital improvements at the park not general maintenance.

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## **Maintenance Building Roof**

Doug Strawinski has contacted the same roofer who did excellent work on the Snack Bar and Pavilion to tear off and replace the roof on the Maintenance Building. This roof is over 35 years old and must be replaced before it begins to leak. Ann Conway assures me that this could be paid for from the League User Fees Account that contains \$13,657.00.

All sheds and dugouts at the park now have new roofs. The Maintenance Building is the one roof left to replace.

## **Middle Field Rebuild**

Last fall we rebuilt the Baseball Field and the North Softball Field. It was a very involved and expensive process that closed both fields to play. We left the Middle Field open for play to accommodate the fall softball leagues. This fall the Middle Field is scheduled for its major rebuild. The infield must be reduced in size by over ten feet. This involves removing the infield mix, installing a barrier to separate the infield and outfield so that topsoil, grass seed, fertilizer, and straw can be put down on the outfield side. The existing infield material must be removed to a depth of two or three inches and replaced with either Beam Clay #3 or #4. All bases, home plate, and pitchers plates will also require replacement. I talked with Brian Kent of Landworks who assisted us in last year's field rebuilds, and he is willing to work with us again this year.

Beam Clay is sending me samples of mix #3 and #4. Perhaps Tom Gilbert and Brian Kent could analyze the mixes and select one as the major users of the field?

I talked at length with the Beam Clay Rep about infield mixes and field conditioners. He will email current price quotes for delivered material. Addition of an infield conditioner to the North Field and the Baseball Field may make it handle water better that would allow for play sooner after rains. It might be a good idea to try this approach on the North Field to see how effective it might be. Apparently many ball parks use conditioners to address water issues as a regular part of their field maintenance program. We have only used it as a drying agent (calcinated clay) around home plate or bases as needed. Diamond Pro costs \$12.95 per bag plus delivery, so this is not a cheap product.

## **Tennis Nets**

When the tennis courts are rebuilt, new all-weather nets should be installed in the spring after the final coatings and lines are completed. If the budget permits these can be purchased now or in the spring if funds are unavailable. All-weather nets make it possible to leave the nets up for a longer time in the fall and installed earlier in the spring.