

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Monday, 9 March 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 willing to have a portable toilet brought in for the day if our restrooms are not available.

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

RHCSD Use of Softball and Baseball Fields

The interscholastic spring softball and baseball practices are scheduled to begin on Monday, 9 March. A plan for where fields will be accessed must be determined to insure the safety of players and spectators. With thoughtful planning problems most likely will be addressed and resolved. It is unfortunate that the project start was delayed four weeks, but I am confident a plan can be developed that will be workable for all.

I walked the site today with Recreation Commission member Pat Bowman to consider how safe access to the fields could be designed.

A meeting today at 1:30 p.m. at the Recreation Park with Tighe & Bond, Turco, and the Town of Red Hook will discuss the spring use of the park.

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.

The concrete curbing for the field is scheduled to begin today at 2:00 p.m. according to the engineer from Advance Testing.

Tennis Courts

The tennis court nets are all installed as of this morning and all the gates are unlocked. Frost heave did lift the posts on the south east court, but Howie Callies managed to reset them without difficulty.

Parking by the Pool

I contacted Paul Petersen, the new Red Hook Pool president to get permission to use the pool parking area. We have permission to use this parking area to access the tennis courts, the pickleball courts, the skate park, and the baseball field. A specified pathway must be determined through the south parking lot that will be safe for all.

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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

Shock Electric has run all the conduit for the field lights all way to the back of the Snack Bar. A separate line was added to provide power to the North Field. This was done as a change order.

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, fencing and yellow safety fence capon the ball field. The sliding gate on the west side is installed and operates very smoothly.

The yellow safety cap is needed because the field will not have a warning track. Most new ballfields do not have warning tracks. The yellow safety cap serves to provide a warning to the outfielder who picks up the color.

The drawings are available for review. There will be no play on this field in 2020.

Summer Recreation Playground

I have rehired Leslie Martin as one of the directors, and hired Nanda Fogle as the other director. I would like to hire a third director who would focus specially on the paperwork for the program with the other two directors focus on the program for the participants. The hiring of assistants for this program must begin now. The Board of Health requirements must be addressed early as well.

I would like to hire Emily Walshin who successfully ran the Tivoli program last summer, but so far she has not returned my calls.

The sign in and sign out process, the Board of Health documentations required daily, and the accidents and incidents that require documentation need to be

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done every day. 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. Signups should 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

The poles and lights have been installed. I have been assured that the surprising small number of fixtures are more than adequate for the field lighting. LED technology is full of surprises.

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 21st 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 may be a 21st Century necessity, but since Board of Health requires copies of each participant's Immunization Record and Health History, the logistics of doing this all online may not be possible. Would someone have to sit every day and print out the permission forms, immunization records and health histories? This strikes me as unworkable. If a data base is established, someone would have to enter all the data and there would still be the need to have hard copies of the immunization records and health histories.

There will probably have to be two signup days in June once again to gather all the necessary paperwork from parents.

Recreation Park East Phase Two Bids

The bids for phase two were opened on Friday, 7 February. Six bids were received. The Town Board accepted the bid from Thomas Gleason. On Wednesday, 11 March, there will be a meeting at the Recreation Park with Gleason, Tighe & Bond Engineers and the town to set up a timetable for the work. The next step would be to issue a Notice to Proceed.

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.

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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. The contractor has put up better signage and more wire fencing, but those who wish to ignore them can always find a way around. .

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.

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.

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RHCSD Girls' Softball Tournament

This tournament may have to be cancelled in April.

Recreation Park West Ball Field

I have received requests to consider have a skinned infield to accommodate softball. This concept requires thorough discussion by the Recreation Commission and all interested parties. This would constitute a change to the original plans and would require input from the engineers and Fastracs.

The complete sets of specifications for the Rec Park West field are available for review.

Dutchess County Board of Health Requirements

All the paperwork submitted last year is once again required for permission to operate. I will also have to drive down to Millbrook to meet with Michelle Kelley once again to submit and review all the required documentation.

I have emailed Michelle Kelley about the hiring of the directors, and I suspect that this is going to be an exasperating process once again with many hoops are hurdles to overcome since she is challenging their qualifications. Apparently the fact that both Nanda and Leslie have master's degrees and experience is not enough for approval. We will see what else is expected.

Recreational Park of Red Hook Sign

The park sign is faded and stained. Joe Coon has agreed repaint the sign and to cut in around the lettering with a red semi-gloss paint as a special project. When Jeff Tremper and I built the sign some years ago, we painted before installing all the letters, the red hooks, and the plaques. They are permanently affixed to the $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood. It will take a steady hand and professional skill to do the painting. Before the repainting, I will install 2x8" pressure treated boards across the top to forestall some of the vertical stains from occurring again.

Park Use during Construction

Representatives from the RHCSD, the Town of Red Hook, and Tighe & Bond met today to discuss the safe use of the park during construction. Supervised use of the north and baseball fields will be permitted with parking only in the north parking lot. The north parking lot gate will be closed once RHCSD players are on the fields. The gate will be closed again after everyone leaves for the day. Baseball players will walk on the track behind the middle field to the baseball field.

The RHCSD will provide two portable toilets - one by the bounce board at the north end of the park, and one on the south end near the baseball field. They will be serviced once a week by the provider.

The RHCSD teams will not use the fields until Wednesday, 11 March.

Parking for tennis court use will be by the pool. Since access to the tennis courts does not involve a construction area, RHCSD practices may begin at any time.

The south parking lot will be totally closed to all.

The playground will remain closed until further notice.

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Phase II Construction Meeting

A meeting with Thomas Gleason will be held on Wednesday, 11 March, at 10:30 a.m. at the town hall. A construction plan and a timetable will be discussed. Work may commence as soon as a Notice to Proceed is given to the contractor.

Soft Ice Cream Machine in the Snack Bar

This is a water cooled machine that requires water running through it whenever the compressor is operating. The Dutchess County Board of Health is concerned that the amount of water put into our septic system at the park would cause it to fail. Determining how much water would be needed for the ice cream machine is not clear. Until the B of H is satisfied that our septic system would not be compromised, they will not allow the ice cream machine to be hooked up.

Catch Basin Frames and Grates

We have salvaged all three frames and grates from the middle field drainage system put in by Frank Vosburgh as a donation some years ago. These items were quite expensive, and if we need to install catch basins in the future they can be reused. The catch basins were unavoidably destroyed when they were removed.

Maple Tree by Basketball Court

This tree is too close to the new basketball court. Limbs hung over the court fence requiring us to trim them last year. Unfortunately, the problem persists and effects the lighting on the northwest corner of the court. Before the new court is completed, park staff will remove the tree to avoid damaging the 10' high fencing that will enclose the court.

Basketball Court Electrical Panel

I will get an estimate to replace the electrical panel on the west side of the basketball court. The current panel is over 40 years old and cannot be kept free of bees. Despite two padlocks the front cover can be displaced by those who want to get at the timers when the lights go out at 10:00 p.m. This has happened several times. The cost would be covered with the existing 2020 park budget. I do not believe it will be overly costly, and since we have a new court, new fencing and new LED lights, it makes sense to complete the whole upgrade now rather than later. The power to the Maintenance Building comes from the panel by the basketball court.

WiFi for Security Cameras

Denis Collet has been working with Frontier and Spectrum to find the best way to provide the necessary equipment to support security cameras at the Recreation Park. The infrastructure at the park in the 21st. century needs to have enough security to prevent vandalism.

LED Lights in the South Parking Lot

When the current lights fail again, I want to get a price for LED replacements. Repairs require a bucket truck that is costly. At least once a year we have to have a repair done on the parking lot lights. LED lights would last 20 years.