

# 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, 13 March 2023

### **Dutchess County OCFS Grant Year Calendar Changes**

The calendar year is now 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. We are required to resubmit our grant application. I have attended two meetings in Poughkeepsie, one on 2 March 2023 and one on 9 March 2023.

The new grant application is due on 30 March 2023. I hope to have it completed and submitted before then.

I plan to increase our grant request to \$15,000. In the past the Recreation Commission requested \$5,000 because other agencies in Red Hook were also requesting funding from OCFS and the Commission believed that it should allow funding to be shared. Red Hook Pool, Inc. has not applied for funding. The Library and the Community Center do request funding, but the times and the costs have changed. I do not believe our funding will negatively impact the requests of other agencies in Red Hook.

### **John Deere Gas Gator Engine Mounts**

One of the four engine mounting bolts has snapped off inside the block. This must be extracted professionally in the spring. We do not have the budget funds to do it now. This Gator is used to groom the ballfields every day. Howie Callies monitored the other three bolts and secured them with Loctite to prevent them from loosening.

Keil Equipment is now Ag & Turf. I made an appointment to have this work done this week so that we are ready to groom the fields.

### **Spring Rolling of the Fields**

I stopped at the Stat Construction office last week on the way back from the Dutchess County OCFS Grant Workshop to arrange to have the baseball field and the two softball fields rolled as soon as conditions permit. The fields are very uneven in the spring and can be a hazard to players.

### **Ted Kudzy Bench**

The bench arrived on 7 December from Keystone Ridge Designs. We unpacked the bench and trailered it to St. Margaret's Home for storage until installation in the spring. As noted in earlier reports, the concrete pad for the bench is already installed by the basketball court.

I will email pictures of the installed bench to the Rec Commission. I will also send photographs to Ted's daughter.

### **2023 Budget**

The 2023 Recreation Budget is available for review at the town website. I believe that the approved budget will meet our needs for 2023 unless we have major equipment failures. The Rec Park Capital Equipment Budget reflects the purchase of electric mowers instead of gas or diesel mowers for the future.

### **Fishing Contest**

The Red Hook Rod & Gun Club will hold its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Contest for age groups 5-9 and 10-15 on Saturday 7 April 2023 from 8:00-12:00 p.m.. Free food and drinks are provided. The Fishing Contest is for Red Hook youth. The Saw Kill will be stocked with trout on Friday, 6 April 2023.

### **Skate Park Improvements – Phase Two**

# **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

The installation of the new equipment is complete. One modification was required because the southeast corner of the blacktop pad was not level. Therefore, the ramp was installed at the nearest level point. This did not make any difference to the use of the ramp.

We may have to install plywood sheets along the grind boxes along the west side if skaters tend to lean on or run into the chain link fence. Time will tell if this is necessary.

The damaged grass areas around the pickleball courts will be repaired in the spring. We will bring in topsoil from our pile, back drag it with the JD4120 and then hand rake the area before putting down grass seed and straw. This area will be easy to water since the yard hydrant is located by the maintenance building. Skaters have been using the new equipment and have commented positively.

## **Rec Park West Dugouts**

The two dugouts were completed on Saturday, 6 January 2023 except for the installation of the storm shield and the metal roofs. is still on the schedule weather permitting. Both metal doors have been installed and are locked. Both doors will require painting in the spring.

The generator is now back at the Red Church Cemetery where it will be used for the Red Church Project.

## **South Parking Lot Dirt Pile**

Plans are underway to remove the dirt pile to the Rec Park West mitigation area. Some of the material will be needed to level out the bus parking area when the pile is addressed. NYMIR labeled the pile an "attractive nuisance" and I must say that kids are climbing and biking on the hill all the time. There is no way to keep them off it!

## **Tennis and Pickleball Court Nets**

All tennis and pickleball court nets will be installed as soon as weather permits. We hope to have them in by next week.

## **Basketball Court Pole Pads**

We will install the pole pads the same day as the tennis and pickleball nets.

## **Baseball Storage Shed**

It is in poor condition. Bee's nests must be removed, and boards replaced. I would like to make the baseball shed match the dugouts with the white Versatec Trim. This will be done in the spring of 2023. Repairs will be done with the Versatec pieces left over from the Rec Park West dugouts when possible.

## **Recreation Playground Sheds**

We elected to paint the Pavilion rather than the Recreation Playground Sheds in the fall. This will be a priority before the summer programs begin.

## **Field Scheduling**

Tom Gilbert is doing all the field scheduling. This avoids confusion and conflicts. All field users have demonstrated cooperation and accommodation when it comes to the schedule. Games are given priority over practices. All the various groups are provided with the opportunity to play under the lights on the synthetic field.

## **Summer Programs Year-End Report**

I completed and submitted the Dutchess County Division of Youth Services Year-End Programs Report on 8 February 2023. I gave a copy of the final report to eh

# TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

---

Town Supervisor. The report and the date used to create the report can be reviewed when we meet on Monday, 13 March.

## **Fir Street Blue Trail**

Working with the Trails Committee and Winnakee Land Trust, we will install a Mutt Mitt Dispenser and a blue garbage container with a blue dome lid at the entrance to the trail off Fir Street in Linden Acres. The Trails Committee purchased the dome lid, the Mitt Mitt Dispenser, and a case of Mutt Mitts. Rec Park Staff will do the installation and manage the emptying of the garbage can throughout the year.

The Rec Park contributed the blue waste container stenciled with Town of Red Hook. These will be placed in the spring.

Warren Rosenthal is no longer with Winnakee Land Trust. I do not know the new contact person, but I will find out before spring.

## **John Deere 4120 Loader/Backhoe (Purchased 2014)**

The JD4120 repair is now complete. It was at Keil Equipment since early November. The water pump failed and required replacement. The mechanics discovered that a section of the gasket on the oil pan had blown out. The leak was substantial. To replace the oil pan gasket, I was told that the engine had to be removed because two bolts on the pan are affixed to the engine block. This is a 20-hour job at \$100.00 an hour.

While the tractor is in the shop for the water pump replacement and the oil pan gasket repair, I asked them to change the hydraulic fluid. This involves gallons of fluid that must be handled properly for environmental reasons and something that we cannot do properly ourselves. The hydraulic fluid is only a few hours away from the recommended replacement time. I have also requested that they check all backhoe attachment points so that no bolts snap off again.

The Highway Department has agreed to trailer the JD4120 back to the Rec Park when the repairs are completed.

The total cost for the repair and servicing of the JD4120 was \$4,087.80. This was paid out of the Recreation Park and Red Church Cemetery budgets since the tractor is used at both sites.

The JD4120 has been problematic since 2014. Issues with the loader and backhoe attachments and leaking hydraulic connections started as soon as the warranty expired! Now that the tractor is repaired and serviced, I hope 2023 will see no more problems.

## **Email about Rec Park West Mowing**

As I noted in the 12 December 2022 Director's Report, I received the following email from Kelly Preyer concerning the mowing of Rec Park West:

Good December John, Chris, and Robert,  
We have been discussing the mowing practices of Red Hook Rec Park West with Chris Layman., master beekeeper and educator at Fox Farm Apiary. Chris will be starting a relationship with the NY Parks to change mowing routines there, and then use that model for pollinator landscapes. Constant mowing destroys the eggs of many insects. I hope that by discussing the benefits of not mowing

# TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

---

during crucial breeding times may help us all help this planet a bit. Please reach out to Chris Layman at [info@foxfarmapiary.com](mailto:info@foxfarmapiary.com) to discuss a new less intensive mowing practice that will benefit us all, financially for the town and environmentally for its people.

Thank you.

Happy healthy holidays and 2023!

Kelly Preyer

I responded to this email as follows:

*I will contact him. It is always a battle between how far mowing can be delayed given the equipment we have to mow it. We lost control of the site two years ago, and it was a very heavy lift getting it back under control. It is recreational land as opposed to a meadow.*

The mowing of Rec Park West has been a challenge. I am sure that we all want to benefit the environment, but there may be a limit to how much accommodation is possible on land designated for recreation.

## **Email from Kelly Preyer**

I received an email on 13 March 2023 from Kelly Preyer concerning the mowing of Rec Park West.

Good day all,

I am once again writing to you in regard to the Red Hook's Rec Park West's North field which is nearest to Aspinwall Road.

The Master Plan of the Town of Red Hook for the Rec Park West (RPW) ,2019 drawing, shows that field to be designated to be a "Natural Meadow area",

(["https://www.redhookny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1567/Rec-Park-West-Amended-Plan-5-20-19"](https://www.redhookny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1567/Rec-Park-West-Amended-Plan-5-20-19)).

I am requesting that the Town cease the mowing of the center of that field, and, with possible assistance of community volunteers and students of Red Hook schools, give the meadow back to the pollinators and wildlife for their good and that of our community.

The tree committee of Red Hook has planted many wonderful native trees on the site which has begun to encourage native pollinators.

There is a 3/4 circle gravel pathway around that one acre that people use.

John has said that the field will continue to be mowed.

I request that the area by the Tree committee's trees be mowed to create an area which explains to people that the center parcel is a field left to grow intentionally as a meadow. Allowing the center of the field to grow wild will create a space for "at risk pollinators" just as the Bard Bee-Lives is doing with a 12.6 acre parcel off 9G with their \$50,000 project. Restoration to a

# TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

---

pollinator friendly environment is also in progress at the Tivoli Bays site with a gift of \$100,000 from Toby Usnik and Harlan Bratcher assisted by the DEC.

This request of mine will cost the town nothing.

I heard that Bard College and Red Hook have a mutually beneficial "pollinator pathway". I recall hearing that it is the area that is wetland on the South parcel of RPW. With the focus on Red Hook being a place where preserving our natural assets matters, any pollinator meadow or pathway would be a favorable addition.

Because the Rec Park is not a state owned site, we cannot request help from the DEC for this parcel and apply under the Volunteer stewardship Program.

I am requesting that this parcel not be mowed in its center. This will cut the carbon dioxide pollution from the mower used to cut the grass. This no mow effort will cost the town nothing and will save mowing costs.

More importantly, this no mow will encourage bird and insect reproduction in an undisturbed, unmowed, meadow area.

I am interested to learn if the Red Hook School Science department has a curriculum about preserving native plants and encouraging native wildlife and pollination. If so, perhaps a class or two might learn how to bring back a piece of land that has been constantly mowed. Maybe they could learn through creating seed bombs, following up with weekly field site visits, charting their impact. They would also learn what benefits are of planting native plants versus nonnative species.

If this kind of science project is not on the school docket, the meadow can be left to its own devices, native and essential plants like the milkweed, Aster, Lobelia, and Rudbeckia and many more may thrive. There are also local community members willing to support this effort.

This is a small parcel of the Rec Park West that can be a vibrant native meadow that enhances the lives of everyone who enjoys their walks there and who learns from it being a true pollinator heaven.

Please consider my request for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Kelly Preyer

The mowing of this area should be discussed thoroughly. We do have a "meadow" area that is not mowed on the south side of the old farm road. There are advantage and significant disadvantages to allowing areas in Rec Park West to go wild.

# **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

## **Damage to Rec Park East and West Lawns**

Persons unknown have driven on the Rec Park West area where Flag Football is played and put in serious ruts in the field that will require extensive repair in the spring. There is no frost in the ground; it does not take much to damage the fields.

The south entrance to Rec Park East and the bus parking area have also been damaged by cars/trucks deliberately "doing donuts." The security cameras do not reach as far as the south entrance.

## **Rec Park East Storm Damage**

So far this winter there have been fewer limbs and trees downed as usual. Two along the western border will need to be cut up and removed in the spring. There is a tree by the Saw Kill that will have to be taken down.

In past years there has been an ice storm late in the season that wreaks havoc with the pine trees. Much work was done this past year to trim these trees of dead and damaged limbs. I am hopeful that this will be effective if we do get freezing rain and ice.

## **Wetlands Walk**

The wetland overflowed the trail on the north side of the bridge. We will need to raise the level of the trail to prevent this happening again.

## **Old Building Department Pickup Truck**

The Rec Park has been offered this Ford truck. It has rusted out considerably and is currently not licensed or insured. It cannot be kept at the Rec Park because of vandalism. At best it would be of limited use for us at the park, and at worst it would become a maintenance headache. I suspect that it may be best to simply declare it surplus and sell it at auction, but it is not my decision to make.

## **Tentative Dates for Summer Programs**

The tentative dates for the Summer Recreation Playground are 5 July to 4 August. July 4<sup>th</sup>. Falls on a Tuesday this year. 5 July would also be the starting date for our other summer programs. This can be discussed at the March meeting.

## **Recreation Facility Maintenance Summary**

I have developed a schedule for maintenance work at the parks. 3,003 hours have been divided among the five people who will work in 2023. The Maintenance Staff Budget is \$60,07800. Not all staff will work on rainy days. Some work on weekends may be necessary. All employees are part time and are not scheduled to work more than 25 hours per week. We are getting a better sense of the maintenance demands of the 28-acre Rec Park West. Special Projects are often done on weekends when staff with specific skills are available.

## **Winter Activity at the Recreation Park East and West**

The dearth of snow and ice has encouraged significant activity at the park. People walk and run every day, walk dogs, play basketball, use the skate park, bring portable nets to play pickleball, use the playground, and even use the pavilion for picnics. I have had to empty seventeen garbage and recycling containers four times since the park closed for the first time ever. The Mutt Mitt

# TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

---

containers were also refilled. We also have those few who insist on tossing their garbage in the parking lots that then gets blown all over the park.

A few major events at the pavilion brought bag lunches with bottles of water and juice boxes that jammed the garbage containers.

## **Pet Waste in Recycling Containers**

When pet waste is put in the recycling containers, we must dump everything in the regular garbage because Welch will not accept it mixed in with the bottles and cans. This is especially true for the recycling containers in Rec Park West. I added *NO PET WASTE* to the recycling containers even though they sit next to the garbage containers labeled *LANDFILL*.

## **Rec Park West Activity**

More folks have discovered the Red and Blue Winnakee Trails. Many walk the perimeter trail of the park as well. Expansion of the parking area in Rec Park West is needed to accommodate all the users. It will be project to fill in all the ruts in the spring.

## **Program Staff CPR, AED, and First Aid Training**

The Board of Health requires that we have First Aid, CPR, and AED certified personnel at the Summer Recreation Playground in addition to our Health Director. I will schedule training with NDP in May at the Town Hall when our counselors are home from college. This may have to be done on a Saturday. The cost last year was \$90.00 per person.

## **Red Hook Rotary Presentation**

Dave Wright requested that I make a presentation about the recent developments at both Rec Park East and Rec Park West at their 14 March 2023 breakfast meeting at Locavor. So many improvements have been made that it is difficult to include everything in a short presentation, and I am sure that I have omitted some items. It is a good idea every now and then to review all that has been accomplished. I have included the text of the presentation in this report.

## **A BRISK WALK THROUGH REC PARK EAST & REC PARK WEST**

Please notice the word *brisk*; I hope to be both comprehensive and brief. It may be a challenge.

### **Rec Park East**

Entering the park from south you will notice a speed limit sign that is generally ignored and sign that state the park is under surveillance. Given the actions of some, I suspect that sign is also ignored.

Rec Park East has 16 fixed camera and two PTZs – Pivot, Tilt, Zoom cameras. I can monitor present and past activity on my office computer and my phone. The Village Police also can access the cameras. Vandalism is the bane of all parks, and we hope having cameras will discourage it.

The next thing you will notice is a huge pile of soil – over 2,000 cubic yards to be more precise. This was the soil removed when the multi-

## **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

purpose synthetic field was installed. Plans are underway to truck most of it over to Rec Park West to the wetland mitigation area. This area will then be leveled for a parking lot. A three-foot berm or a wooden guard rail well be constructed along the eastern border for safety.

Anyone who has been at the park during ball games knows the need for additional parking spaces for buses and cars. I should mention that this parking area was the vision of Bob Bowman many years ago. It has taken 19 years to realize it.

Just north of this area we have a new 14'x30' garage from Bay Horse to address our need for more secure equipment storage. It has overhead doors on both ends and stores our new John Deere 3039R Tractor/Loader with a Finish Mower that is used to maintain Rec Park West. We waited a year to get this tractor because of the shortage of computer chips.

The other overhead door is for the John Deere Diesel 6x4 Gator. The new garage now has LED lighting and outlets to run power tools.

Next is the Shed where we store the tennis and pickleball court nets along with the basketball court pole pads and our dethatcher, grass and fertilizer spreader, and other sports equipment for the summer programs.

The Fuel Shed is where all diesel, gas, oil, anything flammable is kept.

In a moment of inspiration, I built a storage area between the two sheds out of materials left over from other projects to store all the traffic cones and barrels we use for events at the park. It even has a metal roof.

Secure storage for equipment, tools, and supplies is always an issue. The Capital Budget calls for a new, huge, maintenance building in 2025! I may have to stay around long enough to see it.

The brick Maintenance Building is the next thing one sees in the park. It has two sides with overhead doors. This is where most equipment repairs and servicing are done and where all our chain saws and power tools are kept. The John Deere Gas 6x4 Gator with the Rahn



## **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

Field Groomer attached is stored on one side and the John Deere Diesel 997, 72" Zero-Turn Mower is on the other side.

We also have a 25-year lease for the Storage Barn from the Red Hook Pool. Doug Strawinski rebuilt the barn, put on a new metal roof, and installed power with outlets and lights as part of the agreement with the pool. We store our John Deere 4120 Diesel Tractor/Backhoe, the John Deere 1445 Diesel Front Mower, the John Deere 777 Gas 72" Zero-Turn Mower, and our John Deere 670 Diesel Tractor/Loader purchased in 1990 and still going strong.

I mention all this emphasize all the equipment it takes to maintain 60+ acres of parkland.

The four Tennis Courts are new along with new fencing and LED lights. The drainage of the courts was completely redesigned as "roof top" rather than keeping the center drain.

The Basketball Court is also new with new fencing and LED lights. There are four baskets instead of the six we put in when Red Moul and I did the previous court renovation. The two main baskets are set back 18" from end line rather than on the end line. This is much safer for the players who seem to get taller every year!

Moving east, you will see the roller hockey rink repurposed as four pickleball courts. The pickleball courts have been very popular. Beyond the pickleball courts is the skate park. This winter we finished Phase II that put in six more pieces of equipment designed to create a "flow" for the skaters.

Rec Park East has a half-mile-stone-dust track around the perimeter of the fields. A new ADA compliant blacktop path now runs from the south entrance to the north entrance. This blacktop path connects to the Snack Bar, the Restrooms, and the Pavilion. Later we added a 100' blacktop path by the Basketball Court where the stone dust track kept washing out to make it safer for walkers and runners.

The Baseball Field was rebuilt during Covid by Rec Park Staff. Since no games were being played, we took the opportunity to completely redo the infield. The Red Hook School teams, and Senior League

## **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

teams use this field for practice and games every day during the spring and summer.

Rec Park Staff grooms every field every day.

Next is the new multi-purpose Synthetic Field. It is used for softball, baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and other programs. It has state of the art Musco LED lighting, brand new concrete handicapped dugouts with storage rooms on each end. Yard Hydrants connected to town water provide players a place to fill water bottles. There is a remote-controlled scoreboard. Each dugout has outlets and lights. The red aluminum benches in the dugouts are particularly nice.

To the west of the Synthetic Field are the two Volleyball Courts where we updated the lights to LEDs this past summer.

The Snack Bar kitchen has been completely renovated and updated to meet all Board of Health requirements. I installed LED lights in the storage room and in half of the food preparation area. The rest will be updated this year.

The Snack Bar Deck now has a new \$6,000 drinking fountain that also has a bottle fill and a dog drinking bowl. It has been problematic, and I have had to repair leaks four times, but it has been popular.

The Restrooms are completely new and ADA compliant with automatic door openers, new partitions, toilets, sinks, soap dispensers, automatic hand dryers, and LED lights. This was done through a grant.

The Playground was put in as a community build in 2019 on the six rainiest days of the year. It is over a \$100,000 dollar playground that should last for generations to come! The new fencing with sliding gates that eliminated the pass through into the parking lot is a safer configuration for kids.

The 40-year-old turtle was restored and reinstalled with five 80-pound bags of concrete. It should be there for another 40 years.

We installed a new white vinyl ceiling in the Pavilion this past fall. LED bulbs in the fixtures make the place much brighter.

# **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

As you know, the Pavilion has free Wi-Fi as part of a Rotary, Library, and Town collaboration led by Amy Smith. Many folks sit in the Pavilion or the parking lot to access the Wi-Fi.

We enlarged and redesigned the North Parking Lot during the construction of the synthetic field and the restroom renovation. It now has eight handicapped parking places that were sorely needed. The parking lot light was updated to the three head LED fixture. It has a dusk to dawn sensor and is a huge improvement over the old light.

In 2019 we lost the primary electrical service line to the Rec Park. The lowest bid to replace it was \$11,500. We decided to do the work "in-house." Jeff Tremper ran the backhoe and Joe Coon, and I did the shovel and chain saw work cutting through all the tree roots in the trench and laying the new line. Central Hudson installed two new transformers – one at the north entrance and one behind the Snack Bar. The total cost for the project was \$990.89 for the 520 feet of Okonite stranded aluminum primary line, and \$1,277.98 in labor for a total of \$2,268.87. I hope never to do that job again!

Across the North Parking Lot is the entrance to the Ruth Oja Wetlands Walk out to Apple Ring. We created a new access path to the bridge to create safer access for walkers and bikers. So far no one has tried to drive down the walk!

Every building in Rec Park East from the Snack Bar, the Pavilion, the Dugouts, the Maintenance Building, the Garage, the Fuel Shed, the Tennis/Pickleball Shed, and the Storage Barn have new roofs that should last 20-30 years – I hope.

We installed 14 hand sanitizer stations during Covid. We have Mutt Mitt dispensers for dog walkers. We have three drinking fountains and four-yard hydrants for the convenience of park users.

## **REC PARK WEST**

We have a mile-long walking/running/cross-country skiing/snow shoeing track around the perimeter of Rec Park West. Benches installed as an Eagle Scout Project are located along the trail. Garbage and recycling containers and Mutt Mitt Dispensers are placed in convenient locations. The access path from Aspinwall Road for those who live in Linden Acres has been improved with better

## **TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION**

**7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571**

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

---

drainage and stone dust. This entrance now connects directly to the Winnakee Trails to the west.

A Kiosk with two benches is located at the entrance to the stone dust path down to the Winnakee Trails. Dog walkers can grab a Mutt Mitt and head out to the trails.

This past fall and winter the concrete block dugouts that are the same as the ones on the Synthetic Field were completed except for the metal roofs. We are on the waiting list with the contractor who did the roofs in Rec Park East who told me he was about a month out from our job.

The new Softball Field with fencing and backstop has been in use for two seasons now. We anticipate even more use this coming summer.

Further development of Rec Park West will happen over the next few years. Plans for Multi-Use Playing Fields, Pavilion, Restrooms, Septic System, Large Parking Lot, Safe Connection to Rec Park East, and other amenities are in the works. Much depends upon funding.

Rec Park West is the trailhead for the Winnakee Red Trail. Winnakee continues to develop more trails on their extensive property that will be accessed through our park and from Fir Street. Eventually the Blue and Red Winnakee Trails will connect providing a great hiking experience.

To conclude this not so brisk walk through the park, towns need to have reasons for people to want to live there. I believe that our parks are one reason to live in Red Hook. Another reason is our summer youth programs. Add in a fine school district, a great Library, a vital Community Center, exemplary Fire Departments, in Red Hook and Tivoli, good restaurants and diners, Pizza Parlors, Holy Cow, Subway, Liquor Stores, Dunkin Donuts, two Laundromats, Hannaford, a Bakery, four gas stations, active churches and organizations like Rotary, Masons, Elks, VFW, Historic Red Hook, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, CYO, not to mention not one but two Stewarts' and an Extra Mart. Red Hook is so much more than its five banks!