

1. Recreation Commission Agenda & Director's Report

Documents:

[2023 - AGENDA - 10 APRIL.PDF](#)

[2023 DIRECTORS REPORT - 10 APRIL.PDF](#)

TOWN OF RED HOOK RECREATION COMMISSION

7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

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

Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting

Red Hook Town Hall

10 April 2023 ~ Monday ~ 7:00 P.M.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes 13 March 2023
3. Recreation Director Report
 - A. Tighe & Bond Fruit Bud Connector
 - B. Lifetime Learning Institute Pickleball Request
 - C. Community Tract Meet Proposal
 - D. Request for Calisthenics Equipment at Rec Park West
 - E. 2023 Opening of Rec Park East & West
 - F. Dutchess County OCFS Grant Year Calendar Changes
 - G. John Deere Gas Gator Engine Mounts
 - H. Joh Deere Gas Gator Ignitions
 - I. Ted Kudzy Bench
 - J. 2023 Budget
 - K. Fishing Contest
 - L. Skate Park Improvements – Phase Two
 - M. Rec Park West Dugout Benches & Shelves
 - N. South Parking Lot Dirt Pile
 - O. Tennis and Pickleball Court Nets
 - P. Basketball Court Pole Pads
 - Q. Baseball Storage Shed
 - R. Recreation Playground Sheds
 - S. Field Scheduling
 - T. Summer Programs Year-End Report
 - U. Fir Street Blue Trail
 - V. Restroom Automatic Faucet Controls and Mixers
 - W. Bollards in North Parking Lot
 - X. Email about Rec Park West Mowing
 - Y. Email from Kelly Preyer
 - Z. Damage to Rec Park East and West Lawns
 - AA. Wetlands Walk
 - BB. Old Building Department Pickup Truck
 - CC. Tentative Dates for Summer Programs
 - DD. Recreation Facility Maintenance Summary
 - EE. Winter Activity at the Recreation Park East and West
 - FF. Pet Waste in Recycling Containers
 - GG. Rec Park West Activity
 - HH. Program Staff CPR < AED and First Aid Training
 - II. Summer Programs/Staffing
4. Correspondence/Communications
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

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RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Monday, 10 April 2023

Tighe & Bond Fruit Bud Connector to Rec Park West

Ryan Morrison, the engineer from Tighe & Bond will present the proposed plans to connect Rec Park East to Rec Park West on the north side of Fruit Bud.

Lifetime Learning Institute Pickleball Request

I received a request from Lyn Walker for time on the pickleball courts for the Lifetime Learning Institute at Bard College. Here are the emails:

Please UPDATE the Bard LLI Pickleball proposal for court time before the **April 10th** vote as follows: \

Tuesday & Thursday 10a-12p May 23 to Jun 29 6 weeks (1st choice) OR

- Monday & Wednesday **12p-2p** May 22 to Jun 28 6 weeks (instead of 10a-12p)

This change is to avoid conflict with the court time Doug Baz and his group use every M-W-F until 12p. Thanks for suggesting I coordinate with him.

Let me know you got this, many thanks!

LYN WALKER

212-633-0826

BARD LLI Membership Development

On Tue, Mar 28, 2023, at 2:29 PM Lyn Walker LLI <lwalker@lli.bard.edu> wrote:

Hi John-

Thanks for talking to me on the phone last week about Bard LLI and helping us to set up some Pickleball Court time, ideally this Spring. You asked me to forward you a PROPOSAL, which you would take to the Rec Commission Town Meeting for a vote. Are we able to get on the April Agenda?

Our hope is to set up a Pickleball "Special Interest Group" for our age 60+ members in the mornings from the end of May through June, while school is still in session and before your summer leagues start. We would ask for all 4 courts twice a week, for two hours. It would look something like this:

PROPOSAL (2023)

- Four Courts
- Mornings 10a-12p
- Monday & Wednesday May 22 to Jun 28 (6 weeks) OR
- Tuesday & Thursday May 23 to Jun 29 (6 weeks)
- TIMING has some flexibility, to discuss before the Town Vote

I will call you this week to discuss timing and feasibility.

Thanks for your help on this!

Lyn Walker

212-633-0826

BARD LLI Membership Development

BARD LLI BACKGROUND

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The Bard Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) is an all-volunteer, member-run organization that encourages active participation from our local community residents. Our Bard LLI program offers an academic and social membership with a primarily 60+ population. Members pay an annual tuition for four academic semesters which offer noncredit courses. In addition to on and off-campus educational classes, social activities and gatherings are offered as part of membership. You can read more about who we are here: [Mission](#)

As the Recreation Commission has discussed in the past, granting exclusive times to organizations can be problematic given the public demand for open court times for tennis and pickleball. After discussion, the Rec Commission should decide this issue tonight.

Community Track Meet Proposal

Grace Beach submitted a proposal for summer track meets at the high school track. Attached to this report is her proposal. I emailed the proposal to everyone two weeks ago.

Request for Calisthenics Equipment at Rec Park West

Basic equipment such as pullup bars, dip bars, etc., for adult use

2023 Opening of Rec Park East & West

It is a labor-intensive task to open the park in the spring. Special thanks to Joe Coon, Patrick Jones, and Tom Peters who worked diligently to get everything done. The work was easier and faster with the four of us working together. Howie Callies could not start work for two weeks because he was involved in major storm damage issues at Rokeby. Here is a list of what has been accomplished in no special order:

1. Ted Kudzy Bench installed at the basketball court.
2. Dugout benches installed at Rec Park West softball field.
3. Door sweeps installed on Rec Park West dugout storage room doors.
4. Door sweeps installed on the Restroom doors and Storage Room door.
5. New combination lock boxes (five) installed on the synthetic field dugouts, the Rec Park West dugouts, and at the Snack Bar storage room.
6. All picnic tables in the park have been painted after removing all the staples and tacks used to hold down table clothes.
7. Both Rec Playground Sheds painted.
8. Playground Raked.
9. One ton of new sterile play sand put in the sandbox.
10. All ball fields rolled by Stat Construction.
11. All fields raked and groomed – now groomed daily.
12. Drinking fountain by basketball court repaired and turned on.
13. All bases painted and installed on the ball fields.
14. Yard Hydrants unlocked and checked.
15. Restrooms deep cleaned. New tank lid in men's room.
16. Damaged partitions in men's room repaired with aluminum channel.
17. Restroom fans cleaned.
18. New faucet installed in back room sink in Snack Bar kitchen.

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19. 12 new 4' LED lights installed in the Snack Bar kitchen.
20. Playground equipment checked for damage.
21. Massive tree removed that fell by the Saw Kill.
22. Cleaned entire Saw Kill banks in preparation for the Fishing Contest.
23. All downed limbs picked up in the park – last heavy snow caused much damage.
24. Septic tank treated with Rid-X to restart bacterial action after winter.
25. Ground Fault Outlet installed for Summer Rec Playground freezer.
26. Storage Barn cleaned and rearranged.
27. Damage from Skate Park install repaired.
28. All trees in Rec Park East done with new mulch.
29. Servicing of JD1445, Gravely Compact Pro, JD777, JD997
30. Picnic tables placed around park (stored in Pavilion for winter).
31. New battery in JD4120.
32. Compete service of JDX730 – oil, new blades, grease stored at STMH.
33. New automatic controls and mixing valves installed on the four restroom sinks.
34. Flush controls adjusted in men's room.
35. Dog Park cleaned, brush cut off all fences, garbage emptied, JD4120 taken to Dog Park to move dirt piles and debris.
36. Rusted pipe soccer goal (a hazard) cut up and removed from entrance to the Dog Park.
37. Restroom doors painted.
38. Maintenance Building doors painted.
39. Tennis net post and nets installed.
40. Pickleball posts and nets installed.
41. All courts swept.
42. Basketball Court pole pads installed.
43. Wetlands Walk cleared of limbs.
44. Rec Park West trail cleared of limbs.
45. All garbage and recycling containers put out in the parks.
46. New display case installed on the kiosk in Rec Park West.
47. Rec Park West entry stone dragged back with York Rake on the JD670.
48. Mutt Mitt containers filled.

With the higher temperatures this week, we will use cold patch to fill in the potholes in the south parking lot.

I am sure that I have left out a few items, but this list will give everyone an idea of what is involved every spring at the park.

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 increased our grant request to \$15,000. In the past the Recreation Commission requested \$5,000 because other agencies in Red Hook were also requesting

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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 may request funding, but the times and the costs have changed. I do not believe our funding request 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. Ag & Turf has informed me that the mount within the block is broken so that the bolt cannot be replaced. The only solution is to replace the engine. We will soldier on carefully with just three bolts. This Gator is used to groom the ballfields every day.

John Deere Gas Gator Ignitions

After 19 years the ignitions in the Gator required replacement. While the Gator was at Ag & Turf, we had them adjust the drive chains and do a complete service. It is my hope that this Gator will last a few more years.

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 is now installed by the basketball court at Rec Park East. It 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 emailed pictures of the installed bench to the Rec Commission. I also sent photographs to Mary Gilfeather, Ted's daughter.

Fishing Contest

The Red Hook Rod & Gun Club held its 35th 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 were provided. The Club stocked the Saw Kill with brook trout on Friday, 6 April 2023.

91 Youth participated. I will compile a full report shortly and email it.

Skate Park Improvements – Phase Two

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 have been repaired. We will seed and fertilize the area once we have new grass seed.

Skaters have been using the new equipment and have commented positively.

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Rec Park West Dugout Benches & Shelves

We installed the two red aluminum benches in the two dugouts. We used 31/2" galvanized lag bolts with shields instead of the expanding style provided with the benches that proved problematic in the Rec Park East dugouts.

The storm shield and metal roofs will be installed soon. We are on the list of SAP Roofing. Each dugout now has metal shelving for storage.

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.

Baseball Storage Shed

The High School construction class built this shed many years ago. It is now in poor condition. The best solution may be to replace the shed. I did not include replacement in the 2023 budget so we may have to do some repairs. I will ask the Red Hook Raider Sports Club if they are willing to donate a new shed or at least contribute to its purchase.

Recreation Playground Sheds

Joe Coon painted both sheds last week! They look new.

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.

Fir Street Blue Trail

After we remove the mound of dirt blocking the entrance to the trail, we will install a Mutt Mitt Dispenser and a blue garbage container and recycling container with a blue dome lid at the start of the trail off Fir Street in Linden Acres. If garbage containers are placed near the road, they often end up filled with household garbage. The Trails Committee purchased the dome lid, the Mutt 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 and the recycling container.

Restroom Automatic Faucet Controls and Mixers

Every control and mixer leaked when the water was turned on at the Snack Bar. Although they were disconnected as in the past, apparently there was enough water left to freeze and break the seals. I opened the restrooms without the sinks because the RHCS D was practicing at the park. When the new controls and mixers came in, I installed them on three of the four sinks. The last mixer is in now in at N&S Supply and the fourth sink will be up and running tomorrow. In the future all controls and mixers will be removed and stored in the Town Hall basement along with all paint not used during the summer.

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Bollards in North Parking Lot

The yellow safety paint on every single bollard in the North Parking Lot has blistered off. All the posts must be taken down to bare metal with an orbital battery-powered sander. Special galvanized primer must be put on each post and then painted with two coats of safety yellow. This is a major project. The contractor who installed the bollards clearly did not prime them. I must say that it is vexing to spend so much time, energy, and expense redoing work not done properly the first time.

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 during crucial breeding times may help us all help this planet a bit. Please reach out to Chris Layman at 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",

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(["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 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,

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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

On 3 April, I received a follow-up email concerning the mowing of Rec Park West.

Good day to you all,

I am resending my email of March 11th, 2023, to you in efforts to receive a reply from you regarding ceasing mowing of the NW parcel of the Rec Park West. I have spoken with Linda and Lisa but have heard nothing from the town of Red Hook officials.

Please tell me what the specific plan is for the future of the NW Rec Park West field where the Tree Committee of Red Hook recently planted numerous trees near Aspinwall Road. In plans I have seen this is designated as a "meadow". I request once again, that the town Rec Park cease mowing that acreage, **either as a pilot study or a permanent solution, to assist pollinators and native insects in their life cycles.** Converting this field from a dead zone to a thriving native meadow would benefit insects, animals, and humans as well. A decision by the Town to do so would expand what the Village of Red Hook is trying to achieve in the Red Hook Public Space Initiative. This would really make a difference to people who consider living in Red Hook. **Having a conscientious population who values a true pollinator pathway only makes living here much more special.**

One mowing a year will keep the woody plants down, and pathways mowed around the field and through it would keep it a safe and beautiful walking space.

Please let me know what the plan is for this very special piece of land which belongs not only to us who enjoy our daily strolls through its peace and quiet but to those who were natives here long before we were.

Many thanks for your time,

Kelly Preyer

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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. I will do whatever the Rec Commission determines.

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.

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. I do not believe that ACOE approval to raise the level of the trail, but I will check.

Old Building Department Pickup Truck

Theresa Burke dropped off the registration and the key to the truck. The truck is unlicensed and uninspected. I will investigate all this when the park is all set.

Tentative Dates for Summer Programs

The tentative dates for the Summer Recreation Playground are 5 July to 4 August. July 4th. 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.

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 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. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the Red and Blue Winnakee trails. It is beyond our park staff's capability.

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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.

Summer Programs/Staffing

The process of determining what summer programs will be offered begins in April. Staff hiring also begins in April. The Summer Programs Brochure must be finished the first week in May. I am getting stressed just thinking about it. I hope that most of last year's staff will return this summer.