

2018 Crystal Pond Park Year in Review

Submitted by: Chris Mayhew, Chairman

December 4, 2018

Once again the CPP Commission has put forth a great effort to continue to provide a safe and welcoming park for all to enjoy. In the early months of the year, community members gathered to prepare the park for the upcoming busy season. Power and water were turned on in early April to accommodate our annual volunteer day activities. Once the warmer weather arrived, the completion of the exterior painting of the dining hall and changing rooms took place, as well as the installation of new cubbies for storage in changing room area. Other activities were also formulated as the Commission discussed the possibility of a timber harvest to remove trees prior to insect arrival. A thorough discussion occurred regarding the rehabilitation of the Cabin by the Lake. The Yale School of Forestry graciously provided a detail forest management plan to the Commission as well as the alertness of invasive plants on the property. Along the same avenue, a local experienced logger provided valuable information for the Commission to utilize in the future should a timber harvest take place.

Our summer day camp was once again a huge success, with many local teens being employed to guide and instruct local children on how to swim, play and complete other activities in the woods. After many years of service, however, we did receive the resignation of long time Director Jen Larkin. She will indeed be sorely missed, however, has agreed to offer guidance with the transition to our new Day Camp Director.

With the summer, arrived the discussion on rehabilitating the Cabin by the lake. After much discussion and research, the Commission approved this project and Commission member David Barlow took the reins to develop and follow through on our efforts to provide another cabin that could be used by community members. David, along with several other Commission members put their expertise to work and created a warm, inviting cabin for future use.

Other projects that were worked on or completed were, per state request and after an inspection, new hardware installed in the pump house for easier access to annual water turn on and turn off of water supply as well as easier access for annual water quality testing. Rubber mats were installed on the tee pads of our very successful disc golf course to enable year round use of the course. The installation of the 500lb gas tank has continue to show increased savings with the use of propane during rental events. As a result of the generosity of Lindon Tree Service, the removal of unsafe trees around the dining hall will take place this calendar year to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the structure.

The beginning phases of an inspection of the Trout Pond Dam also began this year with communication taking place with a local engineer. Future plans will involve a site visit to determine the next step in protecting the pond from erosion.

Rentals have been a large part of the financial success of the park this year. There have been numerous wedding ceremonies, family and class reunions, birthday parties and political dinners taking place at the park. Once again the BMW motorcycle club enjoyed a few days at the park during Memorial Day Weekend and we were once again proud to have a local Yoga group stretch and relaxed near the water's edge. Local churches and other civic groups were also present this year to enjoy the peace and tranquility that the park has to offer.

As we move into 2019, I would like to Thank both the Town of Eastford and Woodstocks administrations and public works department for their continue support of Crystal Pond Park. I thoroughly look forward to a continued positive and productive relationship with both towns. Finally, many Thanks to the current Crystal Pond Park Commission for their never ending efforts to do what is right for the park. Everyone's thoughts and beliefs are important to the success of the park and I look forward to another great year working together.

Yours truly,

Chris Mayhew, Chairman Crystal Pond Park Commission.

