

## **Foreman's Report January 7---February 10, 2012**

Winter continues to elude us for the most part, and there has been very little plowing or sanding necessary. The crew spent close to week at the County pit organizing material that will be needed with the park improvements, some of which will be screened for rock and black dirt.

We have been trying to keep a skating rink flooded.

The trees were placed for the ice road and some flooding of approaches as well.

In the past week or so, the crew has been trimming trees in the road ROW's that always want to break mirrors and antennas, and we will continue clearing potential problem trees.

Besides regular equipment and building maintenance, Scott is replacing the engine in the 1991 orange pickup.

I will be meeting with Jason Pearson, sales rep for Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, next week to go over details in preparation to put the chip and crack sealing out on bids. If the TB has no problem with this, I intend to put the bid notice in the paper as soon as it can get organized, for bids to be opened at the April 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> TB meeting.

### **Big Bay Town Park**

Nearly all of my time in the past month has been devoted to park plans, grants and reservations. I attended the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program's Project Selection Committee's meeting with the Coastal Management Council in Madison to present our grant applications for BBTP and Griggs Approach. I believe you saw the staff recommendations basically denying funds for either of these projects, which was very disappointing after we were encouraged to apply after last year's denial, but the jury is still out on final funding decisions. It was explained to applicants that funding has been cut to the WCMP, but during the course of the day I was able to meet with Larry MacDonald, Council Chairman, and Mike Friis, WCMP Program Manager, and hopefully some funds can be found for certain elements of each project. I told them the comfort station would probably be the best fit for grant dollars. But it didn't look like either way would we receive our total requests.

This, coupled with possible building plan enhancements, has led me to start applying for more grants, and at this point I have submitted grant applications to the Plum Creek Foundation and the Island Association. I have an application nearly done for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and intend yet to apply to the La Pointe Center and Wal-Mart. I have looked into the Otto Bremer Foundation grant application, and after conversations with various folks, I have asked Jane Edwards for a proposal to write an application to the Otto Bremer Foundation. As I am new and inexperienced at this grant writing business, and since there is a chance for a substantial dollar award, I feel it would behoove the Town to use Jane to write the grant. As you may remember we received a letter from Jane (Sherman's wife) in 2010, in which she offered her services for grant writing.

While trying to develop a building theme as mentioned in the BBTP Master Plan, it has evolved into architecture that follows the pergola, with the rock wall surrounding the well and Joni's Beach shelter, as well as the rock work outside and inside the Bell Street Tavern. This is based on the premise our building should be in keeping with the natural beauty of the park, and something we'll appreciate and be proud of. So, with the help of Tim Sullivan, and the CBE architects we have come up revised plans for the picnic shelter and comfort station, which of course is going to add cost to the plans.

Reservations are continuing to be made, and I think I should mention that our fifth or sixth reservation consequently cancelled due to the fact there were no showers. I also received another email inquiry yesterday asking if we had showers.

I have started the process to apply for another NCCC team, or teams, to help with boardwalks, trails, wood gathering, etc. as laid out in the DNR grant application, with the submittal of the Concept Form, and have been invited to make a full application. But after some more research I am having second thoughts on going this route. In a conversation with Ed Slaminski yesterday, I found out that housing and food assistance for the NCCC teams is not reimbursable for grant funds, even if their labor is donated to the project. This coupled with the hassle trying to find housing, the extra time it takes to follow the AmeriCorps procedure and agreements, leads me to waiver. Since our grant was submitted to the DNR using donated NCCC labor for the boardwalk, I asked Ed if it was OK to just bid the boardwalk out, and he said as long as we pay the match it would suffice.

### **Griggs Approach**

As mentioned above, WCMP basically gave me the same input pertaining to our Griggs Approach application, they will try and help with an element of the construction, and referenced the “ramp”. I assume they were thinking just the concrete slab, but any funding would help.

Mike Fauerbach called recently relating to an upcoming call he was going to make to Edwina Kavanaugh, a DNR attorney, and I have not seen any kind of report that may have developed from the conversation.

### **Harbor Ordinance**

It looks as if Chief Anderson and the Harbor Committee are stepping in to assist in the development of this ordinance. We all had a good meeting with two DNR wardens, who have followed up with sample draft ordinances and advice.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith Sowl  
Town Foreman  
Town of La Pointe