

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 24, 2009

*Background notes for Monday, July 27th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

FRIENDS OF NEEDHAM WOODS AND WATER

Sam Bass Warner, representing the Friends of Needham Woods and Water, will discuss some of the community visions of the organization with the Commission.

CANADA GEESE

The consultant we met with last spring has been checking our ponds and parks every few weeks for evidence of Canada Geese. He did not find evidence of breeding or nesting at Walker Pond, the Reservoir or Rosemary Lake. That indicates the nests are at other bodies of water and then the geese are moving to these areas to live. He did find evidence of molting at Walker Pond and the Reservoir, so those locations are home to the geese while shedding their feathers and growing in new ones. The geese have returned to some areas, with about 15-20 at DeFazio and about 25 at Walker Pond. We've also have a small number at Rosemary Lake. The numbers will likely increase in August.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

The Community Preservation Committee is still working on how best to approach the possible amendments to the legislation that would clarify how recreation funds can be spent. At this time, the current understanding based on the results of the suit against the City of Newton is that the CPA funds need to be used to purchase a parcel of land before any improvements can be made for trails or other recreation uses. The CPC met with Board of Selectmen Chair Dan Matthews to discuss how best to work on this issue. At this time, they are drafting a letter to the Community Preservation Coalition who has had a bill filed with the changes included, but also added some other recommended amendments that CPC members fear will keep the recreation amendments from making it out of committee for a vote. The CPC will keep the Commission updated on its progress.

CAPITAL BUDGET

I've been meeting with other department managers to coordinate all the submissions for the capital budget process, including the Parks and Forestry Superintendent, Highway Superintendent, Water/Sewer Superintendent and Conservation Agent.

DIRECTOR'S CURRENT PROJECT LIST

I've updated the list of projects that I'm working on that extend beyond the typical day-to-day work. I'll try to keep this list updated quarterly and update the Commission when new projects have been added.

MILLS TENNIS COURT BIDS

The DPW will be putting the Mills Tennis Court reconstruction project back out to bid. There were no bids in June, but some of the possible contractors reported that some other bids were due that week for larger projects, so some companies chose not to bid. It is hoped that they will be able to bid this time so the work can be done this fall.

We did a quick comparison of last year's total tennis pass sales and this year's through July 23rd. We've sold 130 family passes in comparison to 101 last year. We've sold 34 individual passes in comparison to 25 last year, and 17 senior citizen passes in comparison to 9 last year. We actually sold out of the 2009 passes and are using passes from a previous year to continue the sales.

SELECTMEN'S GOALS

The Board of Selectmen has posted their draft set of goals on the Town's website and invited input from other board members on Tuesday, July 28 at 7 PM at the Broadmeadow Performance Center. The Selectmen are also hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 7 PM at Town Hall to get input from Town Meeting members on changing the start-time of Town Meeting to 7 PM, and for using the website and "Notify Me" to send out information to Town Meeting members.

NEWMAN ATHLETIC FIELDS

I'm working with the Town Manager and DPW to get an estimate for raising the level of the athletic fields at the Newman School to provide protection of the wetlands with a proper drainage system. This project will also allow the fields to be used on a regular basis. We've hired Weston & Sampson to assist with the estimate and this information will be provided to the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee for discussions on the Newman renovation project. I've already provided an estimate for replacing the existing wooden playground structure for Grades 1-5.

STAFF APPRECIATION PARTY

The Commission's annual appreciation party for the summer staff will be on Monday, August 10 at 8 PM, following the Commission meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

With Nikki back at work, she'll go back and create the monthly financial reports for the months she was out of work and you'll start getting them next month. We are still waiting for the Finance Department to finalize the set-up of our new fiscal year budget, and will then be able to start the regular monthly reports.