

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 23, 2009

*Background notes for Monday, October 26th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

CONFERENCES

Reminder: I'll be attending the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association conference in Worcester on October 29 and 30th. Karen will join me on Thursday, but will then be helping to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Cambridge Public Library – her sister is the Library Director and spent several years overseeing the renovation of the main branch!

I attended some very good sessions in Utah at the National Recreation and Park Association conference.

DEDICATIONS

The Needham Sports Council has scheduled the dedication of DeFazio Park's new fields on Saturday, October 24th at 9 AM.

The newly renovated High Rock School will be dedicated on Sunday, October 25th at 2 PM at High Rock.

BASKETBALL SUMMIT

I will be attending the Public Facilities Department's Basketball Summit on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 PM at the Newman School Conference Room. As with the fields, there are more requests for gym space than what is available, so Public Facilities will meet with all the basketball groups to try and work out schedule issues. They held a summit about 3 years ago to get issues on the table, but now with a new staff and a brand new scheduling program, they would like to try having the groups meet, again.

TRACK

A few weeks ago, I found two track teams using the new track at DeFazio – the St. Sebastian's Cross Country Team and the Nobles and Greenough Cross Country Team. I told both coaches that they did not have permits and would need to leave, and both were told how they could request to use space. The St. Sebastian's Athletic Director has requested one day a week for ninety minutes for his team, and as this is a Needham school, I have given them a permit. (St. Sebastian's provides our department with free ice time for our skating program.) No request has come from Nobles, and as this is the group that I believe did some damage to Conroy Field, I am not inclined to give them a permit. In addition, while I was at my conference last week, Parks Superintendent Lance Remsen saw the Nobles van dropping the track athletes off, again, but he forgot to report

it to me until today. I have sent a note to the Nobles Athletic Director that the use must stop immediately.

MILLS TENNIS COURTS

This project is down to its final stage – and weather keeps interfering! The sealant went down on the court this week. This is a thick layer, and helps with run-off, but also fills in any small depressions to prevent puddling. The temperatures were ideal for this installation, but the corner near all the trees was taking longer to dry, so the final color coats have been delayed. Everyone is trying to complete the project this fall, but I've also told them to make the decision that will get us the best quality surface, so that we aren't repairing the surface next spring!

DPW and PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECTS

Staff members from the DPW and Public Facilities departments have both been working on some projects for Park and Recreation. The Water/Sewer Division, along with Parks Division, have been prepping the areas that will be getting ten new bubblers purchased with CPA funds. They will install the new bubblers, but the actual connection will be done by the Town's plumber (Public Facilities) next spring. Water/Sewer also helped dig the trench for the electrical line for the new parking lot lights at DeFazio. The Town's electrician is just waiting for the ordered units to come in, and he will then get them installed. Additional lighting is being installed near the salt shed, as DPW staff and Town Hall staff will be using some of DeFazio's parking lot during the construction of Town Hall. Parks Division has also done some extra clean-up work at DeFazio prior to Saturday's dedication. Parks Division has been re-cutting all the infields at the diamonds, which helps get them in better shape for the spring season. The RTS's new trash truck finally arrived, so that driver is now handling trash pick-up at the parks. Engineering has been overseeing the construction of the Mills tennis courts. I'm going to work with DPW Assistant Director Bob Lewis and Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen on a PowerPoint overview of the work done by Parks and Forestry, which will help with presentations to the Commission and leagues.

EXCHANGE CLUB

The Exchange Club is scheduled to work at the DeFazio and Claxton Tot Lots on Saturday, October 24 as part of their national day of service, but it's likely this will be postponed due to the expected rain.

BIKE RACKS

I am trying to finalize the order for bike racks next week. The Bike committee is still trying to put together an inventory, but meanwhile, I've worked with department managers and principals to get suggestions for where to locate them. Now having an idea of the number we'd like to purchase, I'll need to review the options to see how far I can get the \$7,000+ to stretch!

MOVE TO PSAB

If you've been by Town Hall this week, you've seen that we're in the midst of another clean-up! A dumpster has been out back for two days and quickly filling up. We also have a large shredder truck in addition to our shredder containers. Nicole and Karen worked a few weeks ago on our office closet and the sports kits materials, and Nicole, Nikki and Karen are now working on our attic space. Two weeks ago, the four of us had a tour of our new office space at PSAB (Public Services Administration Building.) It's great having a space that was created for us, and we all particularly love our two big closets! Construction is still on schedule, and should primarily be done in December. New furniture is out to bid now, though some of the new pieces won't be ordered until DPW is ready to move in. PSAB will be the temporary communications center for the Town, particularly for all technology connections, so that will take some time to set up correctly, and will not likely start until after the change of calendar year so that all tax information can be handled before the move. We still anticipate moving over the long weekend in February. You'll likely see all Town Hall staff in jeans on Fridays as we continue our clean-up.

CHARLES RIVER CENTER

Our office had a complaint from a Dwight neighbor about excessive trash in the parking lot, including picnic debris. I checked with Charles River Center (ARC) and they checked it out and found it not to be related to their operations, but offered to clean it up. Here is what they did: The Maintenance Dept. and some of the consumers from the Dwight Facility worked on the cleaning up the parking lot over the last couple of days to cut plants and weeds back to the fence line, remove landscape materials dumped by others, beer cans (cases), miscellaneous trash and blow leaves and trimming off the asphalt. Thanks again to you, Needham Park and Rec. and the Town of Needham for all they do for The Charles River Center. Please don't hesitate to call me directly on any related issues.
Thanks Cliff Hammel