

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 6, 2009

Background notes for Monday, November 9th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

NEXT MEETING

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting will begin at 6 PM on Monday, November 23rd. Originally, the Commission planned to meet at 6 PM on 11/9 in order to be available for the MUSCO light testing, but the night of testing was moved to 11/23 to allow more time for the leaves to come off the trees. So, the 11/9 meeting will be at its regular time – 7 PM – at Town Hall.

OPERATING BUDGET

The department's operating budget has been submitted at the same level as the one submitted in November 2008. The only changes are seen in Salaries, as it reflects steps and cost-of-living approved at the May 2007 Town Meeting. It is expected that there will be no cost-of-living in FY 2011.

BASKETBALL SUMMIT

I attended a basketball scheduling summit on October 27th, hosted by the Public Facilities Department. The groups are working on their 2009/2010 schedule, but will be submitting survey information over the winter to help clarify the scheduling policies and to find better ways to share the limited gym spaces.

MILLS TENNIS COURTS

DPW Engineering hasn't given me an update this week, but they noted last week that the final painting and lining of the tennis courts at Mills might not get done this fall. The specialized paint is weather sensitive, and they found that the courts were so shaded that it takes more time for the drying to occur, which was discovered when they were putting down the sealant. It's likely that the painting would be delayed until late April or early May, depending on the type of weather we have next spring. I'll update the Commission once I get a definitive update on Mills, and the repair of the crack at Newman. The High School season starts in late March, so they will need to use the courts at the High School and at Newman, and will then have the option to use Mills once the final painting is done.

DeFAZIO PARKING LOT LIGHTS AND TRACK LIGHTS

The installation of the DeFazio parking lights project began. One of the two units that will go up on the pole near the Carleton Pavilion is installed, but not connected. They are waiting for the 2nd light to be delivered.

The lighting subcontractor is scheduled to work on the track lights on November 12th and 13th. He is changing the ballasts and bulbs so that the wattage will be reduced from 400 watts to 175 watts. The units will also be pointed straight down, rather than the current tilt.

EXCHANGE CLUB

Special thanks to the Needham Exchange Club for the playground maintenance projects. The original day of service was October 24th, but that was postponed due to weather. Volunteers worked on Saturday, October 31st to get some work done, and some of the members worked on projects prior to the day of service. The Exchange Club has also been working on a beautification project at Noyes Park which is at the intersection of Central Avenue and Great Plain Avenue.

BIKE RACKS

I was able to purchase 17 bike racks with installation parts through the state grant program. Each rack should be able to hold up to 8 bicycles! I'll be working with DPW on the actual locations and installation plan.

STAGE AT RIDGE HILL

Two teens from Wellesley sent an e-mail to Park and Recreation about a stage they had constructed on Ridge Hill property. I forwarded their information to the Conservation Commission, who discussed the issue at a recent meeting. Their vote was to request that the students dismantle and remove the stage. At this time, they are not being fined for the removal of trees and other damage. The structure must be removed by November 15th.

STUDY OF ROSEMARY FACILITY

I'll review the concepts studied in 2002 for use of land at Rosemary for a building at the meeting. The concept was for a community center, with the senior center having the majority of space in the main building. It also showed how a full-size gym, fitness center and indoor pool could be incorporated into adjacent space with the current outdoor pool still in use.