

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 21, 2010

*Background notes for Monday, October 25th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

I will not be at the October 25th meeting, as I will be at a conference. The November 8th meeting falls on the same night as Special Town Meeting, so the Park and Recreation meeting will move to Newman at 6:30 PM.

NEEDHAM BIKES

Tad Staley from Needham Bikes will make a presentation to the Commission at the October 25th meeting. Needham Bikes is a growing organization of residents interested in promoting the use of bicycles – for recreation and transportation. Commissioner Mike Retzky is coordinating the presentation, and will continue to keep the Commission updated on projects undertaken by Needham Bikes. The organization is currently working with other local towns to hopefully create a 7 mile rail trail, connecting Needham with Dover and Medfield.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the recommendations of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee and has chosen the Heights MBTA lot as the site of the future senior center. There are articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant related to that decision. According to the local newspapers, there are still some residents who did not feel they were heard during the two year process and they are making contact with individual Town Meeting members to get support for locating the center at Greene's Field, so the discussions related to the Senior Center at Special Town Meeting are likely to be lengthy!

NEWMAN AND POLLARD

The transition plans for the Newman project are being put together, and a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 27 at 5 PM in the Pollard Media Center to discuss the parking plan and access to Pollard from Dedham Avenue, if anyone is available to attend. I haven't been given any information on the plan, but have been told that the Pollard fields would not be available in Summer 2011. All Newman fields, including Cusick Field, would also be closed in Summer 2011.

PROJECTS WITH DPW

The final fence work at Asa Small is ready to go, but the general contractor needs to do his final grading before the fence work can be complete. The fence contractor will also do some small fence repairs at other locations within the park. DPW was doing additional research around the new sink hole at McLeod Diamond, today, so more

information will be available next week. They hope to repair the area without creating much damage to the surrounding area. The Greene's Field playground area has been hydro-seeded, but because the nights are getting cold, the major growth won't be seen until spring. Grubs have become a problem at Cricket Field and Cusick Diamond at Newman. The IPM Committee will be meeting over the winter, and will work on a plan to remove the grubs in June, after school is out. Treatments only work during specific periods of time. The installation of bike racks that were purchased last winter should begin shortly. The purchase of the property on Charles River Street will likely happen at the end of November. Some different grading options are under review now, and then I'll set up a meeting with the 3 direct abutters to the purchased property so that they understand what will be done. Creating some separation between the park and neighbors will be a high priority, along with providing access points to the park for the neighbors. Demolition would likely occur over the winter, but grading would need to wait until the ground thaws. The seeded areas will need at least two growing seasons before there is any major use, so if the seeding isn't completed until late spring, the two growing seasons would be Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.

ROCKET LAUNCH REQUEST

Needham Cub Scout Pack 8 has made a request to hold rocket launch at Claxton Field. They have done rocket launches in the past, and have been respectful of safety. I would recommend approval of the request. I've already added a note about safety precautions for other park users. On the day requested, the Soccer Club will be on the other side of the park. If approved, a copy would be sent to the Fire Chief so that they are aware of the approval.

SPOOKY WALK

Barring any unforeseen weather conditions, the annual Spooky Walk will be held in the downtown area on Saturday at 11 AM. It's a fun program to check in on, and Nicole can always handle an extra volunteer if you want to help walk some groups around!
