

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**March 11, 2011**

*Background notes for Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**MEETING REMINDER**

Due to a Special Town Meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission meeting is being moved to 6:30 PM at Pollard. The meeting will be in the "Inner Space" room off of the Media Center. The Media Center is located right across the hall from the main entrance. Tom Jacob will not be able to attend the meeting, and Karen will be at our state conference.

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**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Monday night's Special Town Meeting has two articles. For the Commission, the most important is the funding request for the parking at the back of Pollard. The second article relates to the first step to replace one of the Town's wells. If approved, the second step would be addressed at the May Special Town Meeting.

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**174 CHARLES RIVER STREET**

The building is down, and the foundation was removed. The basement has been filled, so there are no gaping holes on the site! The next steps are being developed, and it is hoped that Town Meeting in May will be asked to fund some work on the Walker-Gordon diamond so that all of the work can be done at one time.

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**SPRING ATHLETIC FIELDS**

Much of the snow – but not all of it – disappeared by this past Monday, but the grass fields and the diamond infields are overly saturated with water, and today's rain is just compounding the problem. The next three weeks will be an important time for watching how the natural grass fields will survive the winter! Maintenance has to wait until the fields dry up.

DPW Parks and Forestry has not been able to replace two missing staff positions over the year, and under the proposed budget will be losing those positions, along with 3 summer positions. Some of the salary funding has been recommended to be retained under the expense portion of the Parks and Forestry budget, so that they can invest in a more proactive maintenance program as well as some contracted mowing services. But, since the budget (for July 1<sup>st</sup>) isn't approved, yet, it will be a difficult spring getting to all the needed work, which includes many tasks not related to athletic fields.