

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 12, 2011

*Background notes for Monday, August 15th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

COMMISSION MEETING

The meeting will be held in the Park and Recreation Office, starting at 6:30 PM. The Commission will be hosting their annual "Thank you" event for the summer staff at 8:00 PM.

VACATION

I'll be on vacation August 20 – 27th.

PROCUREMENT

The bid for the Mills Field backstop and fencing replacement and Cricket Field perimeter fencing along Hillside Avenue has gone out to bid. Both projects will be done this fall. We've also put out a 3 year bid for playground surfacing. DPW has taken over the maintenance of the playground surfacing on overtime. Other playground maintenance is handled by a private contractor. A bid is ready to go out to replace the concrete bleacher pads at Memorial Park, so that they are appropriate for permanent bleachers.

POOL

Over the weekend, we had a heavy rainstorm. It added thousands of gallons of water into the pool, as it also raised the level of ground water. The pool sits at the bottom of three major hills – High School/Rosemary Street, May Street/Garden/Lake, and Hillside Avenue. The rainstorms on Tuesday night brought more than 2 inches of rain down into an area already full of water. The ground water was coming out of the tiers and up through the sand. The pool was so full that it was level with the beach. The pool remained closed all of Wednesday. The required Red Cross safety lessons were held on Thursday morning and though more vacuuming was still needed, the Pool opened on Friday morning for lessons and swim team.

On Thursday night, the Conservation Commission reviewed the request to extend our draining permit for 3 more years, and it was approved. There were no objections raised during the discussions from board members or audience members.

DRAFT POLICIES

Commissioner Brian Nadler has met with the Trustees of Memorial Park regarding the draft field scheduling policies and will meet with them, again, at their August meeting. He'll have an update for the Commission in September.

GREENE'S FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen has appointed the following to serve on the Committee: John Bulian (Selectman), Andrea Shorthose (Commission), Alison Borelli (Parent Talk), Larry Cohen (direct abutter, Save Greene's Field), Greg Condon (Exchange Club), Dave DiCicco (Memorial Park Trustee, youth sports), Sally Dempsey (Women's Club, original co-coordinator), Amy Franco (parent of young children), Rochelle Golden (Women's Club, Save Greene's Field), Mary Ann Pierce (Women's Club, original fundraiser), Alison Rivers (Parent Talk), John Rooney (St. Joseph's), Lois Sockol (Rotary Club, Library Trustee). DPW Parks and Forestry Superintendent Edward Olsen and I will staff the committee. The first meeting will be in late August.

CAPITAL BUDGET

I'm working with the DPW on the updating of all of our capital budget requests. I'll have an update for you at the first meeting in September.

TOWN HALL MOVE

Preparations are underway for the departments to move back to Town Hall. The IT department will move back over the weekend of September 9-12, and there will be a disruption to all computer services as the main network is set up at Town Hall. PSAB will have the back up system in place, something the Town didn't have prior to these two construction projects. The other Town Hall departments will move back over the Columbus Day weekend. PSAB will be shut down for part of the move on that Friday. Our department will then be alone in the building with Planning/Conservation/Economic Development until mid November, while PSAB is prepared for the departments to be permanently located here, including DPW, Building, and Public Facilities.

NORTH HILL

North Hill is developing plans for major renovation. During Phase 1, there will be a loss of parking, so North Hill is requesting permission to use the Dwight parking lot for their staff, weekdays from 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM, for about one year. This is an *action* item on the agenda. They are also working on other plans, and one option is to move the delivery truck route. Their current thought is to build an access road off of Dwight Road, across Park and Recreation land. This will be a *discussion* item on the agenda, just to give preliminary thoughts.

WALKER-GORDON SUNDIAL

When Park and Recreation purchased 174 Charles River Street, there was a sundial down near the water. An Eagle Scout is working on a project to make the pond area welcoming, and utilized the sundial in his plan. Last week, it was missing. I checked with the next door neighbor to see if anything unusual had been seen, as it was too heavy to carry off on its own. She let me know that she had moved it to her property as a memory of the former owner, thinking that the Town wouldn't be using it. I've requested that it be returned.