

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 23, 2007

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

FIELD STUDY UPDATE

It has been determined that the construction will begin at Memorial Park this winter and at DeFazio this summer. One preliminary project will need to be done at DeFazio this winter, to move a storm drain, and all efforts will be made to repair the excavated area well enough to allow use of the fields within that area for the remainder of the spring.

No decision has been made on athletic field lights. If enough funds are raised, the request to the Zoning Board of Appeals will be made. The electrical conduits will be installed during construction, but no concrete pads, poles or lights will go in.

The Field Study Committee will be updated on the construction schedule on Monday, December 3 at 7 PM at the Broadmeadow Performance Center.

Park and Recreation will host a meeting with all the user groups on Wednesday, December 5 at 7 PM at the Newman Cafeteria, so that the groups can start working on plans to deal with the temporary loss of fields. It is my recommendation that this be an initial meeting, to provide information and answer questions. It would be helpful to give the groups time to do some thinking and research, and come back and sit with other groups to try and find resolutions prior to submitting permit requests.

The DeFazio plans will be presented to the Conservation Commission on Thursday, December 13, and the hearing for the Notice of Conditions will continue at subsequent meetings until all questions from the Conservation Commission are answered.

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

The equipment arrived for Riverside, and the subcontractor is hoping to get it installed in the next week, weather permitting. The department's playground maintenance contractor has been hired to work with the installers, to insure that it is done properly. He will also help make adjustments to some of the layout, as all the removal wasn't quite done as indicated on the plans.

TOWN HALL UPDATE

The consultants have developed three options for the renovation of Town Hall, and will present these at a public hearing on Monday, December 10 at 8 PM in the Community Room at the Library. The Park and Recreation Commission will adjust the start time of their regular meeting that night to an earlier time in order to be available to attend the

public hearing. Two of the options have the Park and Recreation Department remaining in Town Hall, and the third option has the Park and Recreation Department moving to an alternate site. A possible alternate site is a new administration building at DPW that could be built prior to the renovation of Town Hall in order to use the building as temporary space for all Town Hall departments during construction.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Town Manager will be discussing preliminary capital budget requests with the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, November 27th. A review of Park and Recreation requests will be discussed at the Commission meeting.

POSSIBLE GARDEN

Bill Tedoldi, an active member of the Charles River Watershed Association, has been approached to apply for a state grant of up to \$10,000 to create a garden adjacent to a parking lot that would assist with drainage and clean water. His thought is that this project could be beneficial to the DeFazio parking lot. The grant would require it be spent by the end of June, so I've invited him to attend the Commission meeting to discuss this idea. For Park and Recreation, it's an ideal lot to consider, but we would have to insure it remained intact during the construction period. This project would also meet objectives in the Open Space and Recreation Plan and would add to the aesthetics of DeFazio.