

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**March 23, 2012**

*Background notes for Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**3/12/12 AGENDA UPDATE**

As the Commission meeting was cancelled on 3/12/12, the majority of agenda items have been moved forward for discussion or decision. A few discussion items have been moved off of the agenda and into these notes as the 3/26/12 agenda is substantial. Please bring the 3/12 packet to the meeting.

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will come to your meeting about 8 PM to answer any questions you might have on agenda items.

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**CRICKET BUILDING**

This has been moved off of the agenda. The final report from Bargmann, Hendrie and Archetype is substantially complete, outlining the strengths of the current building and several renditions of possible improvements. I'm working with the Public Facilities project manager on a possible new building, with cost comparisons. The Commission will be asked for input once we have drafted the information, and then a vote to accept the final report. The report is a "pathway" to an updated capital request, and is not a decision on one option.

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**BIKE RACKS**

Through a state grant, I was able to purchase 17 bike racks a few years ago. The DPW has slowly been trying to get them installed, and will work over this weekend to prep the final two sites at DeFazio and Rosemary. The initial purchase was made through the Parks Trust Fund, but I will submit the completed information to the grant program and hopefully receive a refund to place back in the trust fund for other projects.

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**FIELD MAINTENANCE**

DPW is working hard to have fields in good shape for April 1<sup>st</sup>. The High School started practicing this week, but primarily are using synthetic turf fields, with some use of Claxton and Avery. One of the NHS club teams used Conroy for a few weeks, causing some damage but the repair is underway and the Principal has met with the team to go over use of fields. Information has been sent to all the league officials on pre-season maintenance, seasonal maintenance and capital improvement projects.

The Soccer Club has decided to hold off using the natural grass fields until April 9<sup>th</sup>, to give more time for growth. They have asked the Parks Superintendent and me to consider asking all natural turf multi-purpose fields to remain closed until that date, so the Commission can give input during the discussion on field scheduling.

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### **GREENE'S FIELD PLAYGROUND**

The basic research and study have been completed and discussed with the Selectmen. I'm finalizing the written information for the Selectmen. A group of residents are developing a financing plan, so a decision on how the new structures will be funded and installed is the next step.

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### **NEWMAN PLAYGROUND**

The PPBC approved a layout for the space. I was able to meet with the chairs of the parent committee last week, to go over the process to follow. They had moved forward a few steps, so I'm working with them to go back to earlier steps to make sure all information is gathered. They've already started their fundraising efforts as they hope to move forward quickly to replace the structure that will be removed after school is out in June.

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### **PROCUREMENT**

The DPW is working on creating a process to create a more prompt timeline for procurement steps and I am working with them, for the projects on which they assist our department. Some of the implementation will be delayed as their procurement specialist and office manager Louise Miller has accepted a new position with the City of Medford and will be leaving in late March. Her assistant Dylan Cook will take on as much as he can, working closely with Assistant Town Manager Dave Davison, while the hiring process moves forward.

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### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION LEGISLATION**

This article still sits at House Ways and Means. Rumors are that it will be addressed prior to the end of the session in June. I presented an award from the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association a few weeks ago at our state conference to Rep. Stephen Kulik, the House sponsor, so we discussed the importance of the word changes for recreation projects. His hope is that people will reach out to Speaker DeLeo to advocate for the bill coming forward for a vote.

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### **OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATES**

The Finance Committee has completed their reviews of the department operating budgets, and at this time has not recommended changes to the Park and Recreation budget. It appears that the Parks and Forestry budget will also be supported, with the requested additional funds for the maintenance program. Capital requests are currently under review, but have not been voted on as of this writing.

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### **TRAIL STEWARDS**

Assistant Director Karen Peirce will train her first group of trail stewards this weekend, and a second group in a few weeks. It's exciting to get this program up and running!! In a few weeks, she'll oversee a trails day along with the continuation of the Town-wide clean-up program started during the Needham 300 year.