

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 10, 2012

*Background notes for Monday, August 13th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING TIME CHANGE

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting will begin at 6 PM on Monday night. The Commission is hosting its annual thank you party for the summer staff who have done such a great job at the programs and the pool.

SUMMER

It's with very mixed emotions that we come to the final weeks of summer. The summer staff has worked so hard to create safe and fun programs and facilities, and have been fun to work with, too. But, it's a non-stop work schedule, so it will be nice to slow down the pace a bit – still be busy, but with time to breathe! I think the majority of the summer staff is walking away with great memories of the summer – and hopefully, the majority will have the opportunity to come back next summer.

Children's Theatre performances are finished for the summer, and there is just one more Arts in the Parks concert on Thursday night. Programs end on Thursday, with everything cleaned up on Friday. Swim lessons will end on Friday. On August 20th, the pool will shift to shorter hours, closing each day at 5:30 PM. This allows staff to have some time at night to prepare for returning to school. If we held to the regular hours, it would be difficult to staff the pool for its final week. The pool will close for the season on Friday, August 24th at 5:30 PM, and everything will be cleaned and put away by about 7 PM. It takes weeks to put it all together in the spring time, but not much time to clean up (with some tasks starting earlier in the week.)

ALY RAISMAN

What an exciting time for Aly and her family! There was a live streaming of the match at Town Hall on the morning of the All-Around competition at the Olympics. Assistant Director Karen Peirce went up to help, as they had over flow rooms and wanted to make sure they had someone who would be particularly helpful with children and parents. Right now, I'm working with the Town Manager's office on plans for Aly's return. Once we have a confirmation on times/dates, we are ready to pull some ideas together. I've talked with Boston Parks and Recreation and the City's Special Event Coordinator to get some advice. The possibilities, today, are sometime of greeting and escort back from the airport, and then some type of "parade" on another day before she heads out on the 40 city exhibition tour all fall.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC will hold a summit with the Town Manager on Thursday, August 30th. Chairman Mike Retzky and Vice Chairman Cindy Chaston will represent Park and Recreation and will discuss potential projects for upcoming CPC applications. There are also expected to be representatives from the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority and Historical Commission.

At the Commission's first meeting in September, Friends of Woods and Water representative Sam Bass Warner has requested to meet with the Commission to discuss his vision for the trails at Rosemary Lake.

CPC Chairman Mark Gluesing and I participated in a webinar outlining the changes that have come with the updates to the legislation.

GREENDALE AVENUE

This morning, Chairman Mike Retzky and I walked about half of the trail along Greendale Avenue with the Town Manager and members of the Board of Selectmen. The parcels along Greendale, under the Commission's jurisdiction, are frequently discussed in informal conversations for alternate uses. The walk gave each person an opportunity to see the parcels, and observe how the trail system is used.
