

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 20, 2012

*Background notes for Monday, April 23rd
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

WELCOME BACK, COMMISSIONER JACOB

Park and Recreation was truly lucky to have 3 solid candidates in this year's election, but it's a true pleasure to have Tom Jacob back on the board for three more years. His first three years were busy – probably more than Tom expected – but he's taken the time to learn about issues and speak up for what is right for the parks and the community. I appreciate all the time Tom has spent with me on organizing the use of the synthetic turf fields – an on-going challenge but one that seems to be working at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS, COMMISSIONER DiCICCO

Sometimes it seems hard to believe that Dave DiCicco is just joining the Commission, as he has worked closely with the board on many issues as a member of the Trustees of Memorial Park. Dave has been very helpful to me on issues related to field scheduling, too. Hopefully, next week will bring a positive vote at the State House on the CPC legislation updates. Dave has worked tirelessly to make sure that legislators understand the importance of the change in wording for Needham and its parks.

THANK YOU, MR. TOOLAN

It is always a pleasure to meet a Needham resident who is willing to step forward and be willing to serve on an elected board. Matt took the time to learn about issues and promote recreation and parks in Needham. I hope that this will be just an introduction to Matt and that he has a long-time association with Park and Recreation!

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

The bill that would change the uses of CPA funds for recreation projects has now been added to the state budget bill as an amendment. As I write this, it is possible that it will be voted on this Monday, April 23rd. If approved, the Town will be able to do capital improvement projects on land already owned by the Town that is in use for recreation purposes, including athletic fields and trails.

TREES

Arbor Day is on April 27th and in celebration of Needham's Tree City USA status and of the event, the Parks and Forestry Division will be planting about 30 large trees grown in their nursery over several years. Riverside Park will receive 5 trees; Thorpe Park will receive 5 trees; the West Street Pump Station will receive 2 trees; Perry Park will receive 3 additional trees and the island across the road on Beaufort Avenue will receive 3; the DPW area will receive 1 tree; Claxton Field will receive 3 trees; and Rosemary Pool will receive 6 new trees near the new bike racks. If I get a specific planting date on any of

these parks, I'll let you all know in case you want to drive by and see the planting process.

PROJECTS WITH DPW AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

The replacement of the hot water heaters at Rosemary Pool's bathhouse (not the pool) is a project out to bid. The existing heaters had outlived their lives, and the new ones will be more energy efficient. They will be installed this spring. The irrigation system installation at Mills will start within the next few weeks. The contractor has stated that he can have the field in playable shape each evening, as the work is not invasive. The DeFazio parking lot project is out to bid and we'll have cost information in a few weeks.

TOWN-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY...APRIL 28

Don't forget the Town-Wide clean up day on Saturday, April 28th. Assistant Director Karen Peirce is organizing the day with former Park and Recreation Commissioner Bill Dermody. They created this program during the Needham 300 celebration, and hope to build on its success. Trash is something that is talked about at many Commission meetings – this is one effort to get the community involved in the solution. Picking up other people's trash certainly makes a person more conscious of what is done with his/her own trash!! Free registration is on-line, so please encourage people to join us!

TRAIL CLEAN UP DAY...ROSEMARY LAKE...APRIL 28

Not to be forgotten, the second annual trail clean-up day will also be held on Saturday, April 28th. Assistant Director Karen Peirce, as our Trails Coordinator, is organizing the event, with assistance from others on the Trails Advisory Committee. Earth Day is this weekend – April 22nd – but as that falls during school vacation week, its likely more people will be available on the 28th. Free registration is on-line, so please encourage people to join us!

CITIZENS' PETITION AT TOWN MEETING

The Commission has already discussed a citizens' petition at Town Meeting that would prevent the Town from utilizing any chemical treatments, when necessary, at outdoor locations. The proponents, as of this writing, plan to submit a substitute main motion to replace the original text. As it is different from the original text, I have included the new version in the packet for discussion and a new vote. As there has been some incorrect reports that chemical treatments are prohibited on school grounds, I've include the text of the *Massachusetts Act Protecting Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides* in the Commission's packet. I'll be attending the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday night when this article is discussed.