

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 25, 2012

Background notes for Tuesday, May 29th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

CHANGE IN MEETING DATE

Just a reminder that the Commission has moved its meeting date to Tuesday, May 29th, as the Memorial Day holiday is on the 4th Monday.

YMCA

As many of you are aware, the YMCA has been trying to develop plans to build a new facility in Needham. Their goal is to have one site that would encompass what they provide at the Great Plain Avenue site as well as the fitness center they rent on Chestnut Street, and have a definite plan in place before their lease ends in 7 years. Their hope is to have a pool for lessons and activities, as well as a competitive pool. In addition, they would like to have outdoor space for athletic fields. Ideally, they are looking for 5 acres. Their other hope is to create some format of a public/private partnership which hasn't been defined, but would likely include purchase or lease of public land. As any parcel they consider is likely to be under the jurisdiction of the Commission or the Selectmen, the Town Manager and I are working with their staff to gather more facts before formally presenting to the two boards.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SOCCER TOURNAMENT

This event is scheduled for this weekend throughout the Town, with DeFazio Park being the main location for activities. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will observe all field conditions prior to the tournament and report back to me on conditions following the tournament.

NORTH HILL

In August 2011, representatives from North Hill, including their attorney Roy Cramer came before the Commission to discuss their construction project. They are preparing to move into a new phase that would involve the part of the project discussed with the Commission. The Planning Director is going to send me a copy of the plans, which includes an alternative option to create a gated delivery entrance along an easement they would request from Park and Recreation. The easement would be 50 feet wide to accommodate a 23 foot road that would be maintained by North Hill. This is on property reached from Dwight Road and is part of the Dwight parcel that Town Meeting recently transferred to the Commission's jurisdiction from the Board of Selectmen's. If this becomes a formal discussion, Town Counsel would work with the Commission and the Board of Selectmen, and Town Meeting would need to approve the easement.

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WALKER-GORDON

This project is now out to bid. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen worked closely with a specialist to provide very specific details on the project, and BETA assisted on some of the tasks, including the documents needed for the approved permits from the Conservation Commission.
