

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 22, 2013

*Background notes for Monday, February 25th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING LOCATION

Reminder: because of a scheduling conflict, the Park and Recreation Commission's regular meeting space is not available, so the Commission will meet at Town Hall in the Selectmen's Chambers on the main floor. Mr. Jacob and Ms. Carey need to leave to attend the PPBC meeting for an 8:30 PM agenda item.

Commissioner Cindy Chaston has conflicts with the meetings on February 25th and March 11th and will not be available to attend either meeting. Please make sure that Chairman Mike Retzky and I know well in advance if any other Commission member might have a conflict, so that we can insure a quorum is present for business.

RAIL TRAIL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Park and Recreation and Bay Colony Rail Trail are hosting a public workshop on **Monday, March 4th at 7 PM** to discuss the possible recreation path from Needham Junction to the Charles River and the border with Dover. This will be held in Powers Hall at Town Hall. The purpose of the workshop is to provide information to interested residents, and for the consultants hired to study some aspects of the possible project to listen to the ideas, questions and concerns. This workshop will be announced in local media, and a mailing is being put together to go to direct abutters and other nearby abutters who might be concerned with parking or access issues. The abutters list covers the area of the study, as well as those who live near the northern branch that will be studied at a future time.

GREENE'S FIELD

I've met with a small working group on the playground design, and we are waiting for the next rendition. Because of the successful fundraising, there is more money available than what was estimated in the original design estimate. This morning, Commissioner Dave DiCicco, Selectmen John Bulian and Matt Borrelli, Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Naughton, and I met with some of the Warren Street neighbors for about 90 minutes, walking the park and reviewing the concept plan. In order to meet the summer time frame, we must move forward to put the projects out to bid within the next two weeks.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST TRAINING

The Town Clerk has sent out information regarding the state requirements for re-training on the Conflict of Interest Law. I have sent the Commission members a copy of the legislation, and the final page is an acknowledgement form that must be signed and returned to the Town Clerk. The information also includes a link to the state website for

an on-line training session. Once it is completed, a certificate must be printed out and returned to the Town Clerk. The four office staff members are following the same process. Our seasonal employees will receive the information and sign the form, but are not required to take the on-line training program.

CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Massachusetts has a new law that will require all schools to fingerprint employees and those working in schools who can have direct contact with children, effective September 1, 2013. This is in addition to CORI checks. The cost of the service, about \$55/person, is supposed to be born by the employee. It doesn't appear that Park and Recreation staff supervising programs in school buildings will be required to go through this process, but I'm working with our Human Resources Director to gather all the information. We should have more details in March. Our staff, ages 17 and older, who work with children or senior citizens, are CORI'd, and we insure volunteers are not able to be alone with children.

POOL STUDY

Commissioner Tom Jacob and I are voting members of the PPBC for the pool study project, representing the Commission and the department. We will be attending the PPBC meeting on Monday night to vote on the awarding of a contract to one of the firms that submitted proposals for the study. We were fortunate to have three firms submit solid proposals. All three have handled more than one project in Needham, with two doing projects at the Rosemary site, and the third having a division that helps with the operations of the pool filter system at Rosemary. I was on the interview team with Natasha Espada from the PPBC and Hank Haff who is the project manager for PPBC. We were impressed with all three proposals yet were unanimous in our recommendation that will be made to the PPBC. The recommendation will be discussed at the Commission meeting.

DRAFT POLICY

The Trails Advisory Group has reviewed a draft policy for the use of power-driven mobility devices on trails. Lisa Standley, the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, put together the draft, utilizing samples from other towns. The draft is on the Commission's agenda to discuss, and to raise any questions. An updated draft will come back at a future meeting for a vote. The draft will also be sent to the Needham Commission on Disabilities, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee for review. It is hoped this will be a joint policy for all of Needham's trails.
