

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**August 9, 2013**

*Background notes for Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**MEETING LOCATION REMINDER**

The meeting location is back in the Charles River Room at PSAB. The meeting is starting early as at the conclusion of the meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission will host their annual staff appreciation party for all the summer staff at Rosemary Pool.

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**END OF SUMMER**

It seems as if we were just reporting on all the pre-season tasks as we prepared for the start of the summer season, and it is already time to start the closing tasks. The programs will finish up on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Pool will remain open until Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The final week's hours (8/19-8/23) at the Pool are 12:30 – 5:30 PM. The summer staff has done an amazing job providing safe and fun activities and facilities for many Needham residents this summer!

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**NEW ENGLAND SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION**

Parks & Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen hosted the annual summer meeting of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association on August 7<sup>th</sup> at DeFazio. More than 120 members plus vendors attended. It is unusual for this meeting to be held at a municipal park, as they try to showcase the best in the profession. Due to the persuasion of one of the board members who has done some work with the Town, they agreed to give DeFazio a try – and I can't tell you how many people expressed how impressed they were with the park. The Parks & Forestry crew did a fantastic job preparing the park – and I heard several note what a great job they had done with weed wacking! Ed also was a featured speaker, discussing how he maintains parks, with only rare uses of chemicals, primarily only used for poison ivy or winter moth. It was a pleasure to see Ed and Parks & Forestry be honored for their work!

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**SUDBURY AQUEDUCT TRAIL UPDATE**

In late July, I attended a meeting hosted by the MWRA with communities situated along the Sudbury, Cochituate Wachusett and Weston aqueducts. Only the Cochituate is abandoned, and the others are back-up systems not in regular use. The MWRA would continue their standard maintenance, but remove signs and barriers. Each community would need to handle road crossings and trail signage. Framingham has a section now open on the Weston Aqueduct. Wellesley purchased 90% of the abandoned Cochituate in the 1990's. Needham would be given a permit for use. Next steps include confirming ownership of two sections along the aqueduct, which appear to be under state jurisdiction, but not MWRA. There are two sections located in Needham, with one in Needham Heights and the second section up near Olin and Babson Colleges. A plan needs to be developed for road crossings, including sidewalk access under Route 128.

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