

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 25, 2013

Background notes for Monday, October 28th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

The Park and Recreation Commission typically meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Because of an upcoming Monday holiday – Veterans' Day – the Commission has decided to meet on Monday, November 18. At this time, a second meeting is not scheduled in November, but may be added if urgent business comes forward.

IMPORTANT DATES

Preparation for Fall Special Town Meeting

Tuesday, October 29 @ 7:00 PM – Town Hall Powers Hall

Fall Special Town Meeting

Monday, November 4 @ 7:30 PM – Town Hall Powers Hall

Tentative, if needed – Wednesday, November 6

TOWN-WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY/TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY

The joint fall event is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th. Check-in for the clean-up is in the PSAB parking lot between 8:30 – 9:00 AM. For those volunteering for trail work, this fall's project will be at Ridge Hill, and people are asked to meet in the parking lot at 9:00 AM.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC has had two proposals under review for the Fall Special Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen have requested \$45,000 for insurance required under the lease agreement with the MBTA. Permission to sign the lease is also on the STM warrant. The CPC would be reimbursed for 50% of the actual cost of insurance, if approved. The CPC has voted to recommend funding this proposal.

The second proposal is actually a project under review since 2005. The Conservation Commission is trying to replace the boardwalk bridge on their Swamp Trail, and also replace a small bridge on their Charles River Trail that leads to the Charles River. It has taken several years to finally get the project designed, and during that process, soil borings indicated a deep layer of peat. Due to the locations in the swamp and wetlands, helical pile foundations would be used, as they can be installed by hand and have the least impact on the wetlands. The Conservation Commission will use \$100,000 from the Conservation Trust for this project, and is seeking just over \$180,000 from the CPC to cover the full project costs. The Conservation Commission has decided it needs more time to prepare for this project, so they have withdrawn their proposal for consideration for the Fall Special Town Meeting, but will re-submit for review for the May Annual Town Meeting.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Commission will discuss various articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant and determine whether to vote to support some that have a direct impact on Park and Recreation.

School Committee Chairman Joe Barnes and Vice Chairman Michael Greis will be attending the Commission's meeting to discuss the Hillside Feasibility Study.

RAIL TRAIL

Bay Colony Rail Trail continues to create fundraising ideas to reach their goal of \$235,000. They currently have raised more than \$70,000. This month includes a raffle, and any personal donations made will be matched by an anonymous donor up to \$20,000. In November, a local restaurant will make a donation based on the day's visitors who mention the Rail Trail. Rep. Garlick is requesting about \$70,000 be appropriated by the State from a \$250,000 line item she had submitted last year on behalf of Needham, Dover and Medfield for the rail trail. She has been joined on this request by Sen. Ross and Sen. Rush. It is also possible (but not confirmed) that a donor may pay the estimated \$35,000 for a stone dust surface if BCRT can raise the \$200,000. If all the options become reality, the Rail Trail can become a reality in 2014, which is exciting!!
