

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 21, 2014

*Background notes for Monday, February 24th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

OFFICE

Kristen Wright started work on Tuesday, February 18th as our Administrative Specialist. We are all very happy to have her join our team, sharing her strong skills and positive customer service attitude! Stop by to meet Kristen, when you have an opportunity!

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Representatives of the dog park committee have requested to meet with the Commission. They currently have an agreement with the School Committee to use a section of the Nike Site and are in the process of raising funds for fencing.

MILLS FIELD PARKING

The PPBC is getting set to being a construction project at the St. Mary Pump Station on Central Avenue. As there is not enough parking at the site, they have made a request to the Commission to use 8-12 parking spaces at Mills Field, located on Ellis Street. These would primarily be used weekdays from 6 AM – 3:30 PM and would still keep plenty of spaces available for people using the tennis courts and the park. If the Commission approves the use, it is possible that I will need to get monthly waivers from the Board of Selectmen, as the parking spaces are marked for 3 hours of use, only. This designation was added several years ago, as area businesses were using the parking spots all day long, not leaving spaces open for park users.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC is reviewing four proposals for the spring Town Meeting: a design for renovations to the Town Common, the bridge and boardwalk projects at Ridge Hill on the Fuller Trail and the Charles River trail, drainage improvements at Memorial Park, and restoration of historic documents for the Town Clerk. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the projects and ask questions or share comments. *FYI...The trail at Ridge Hill was formerly known as the Swamp Trail, but the Conservation Commission is renaming it the Timothy Otis Fuller Trail.*

RIDGE HILL

The Conservation Commission has been sponsoring walks at Ridge Hill on the first Saturday of each month. The next walk will be Saturday, March 1 at 10:00 AM. About 20 people attended the January walk, on a cold day with lots of snow, and the February walk had about 25 people. If you've never been on the trails, it's a great opportunity to take a guided walk with members of the Conservation Commission! One of the trail stewards sent in a photo of a peregrine that he saw there last weekend.

FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAMS

We have just completed a very successful week of programs during the vacation week, with all programs full or close to being at full capacity. Nicole ran two mornings of Snow Dayz activities and oversaw a Thundercats sports program for three days. She oversaw two half day programs – one with Legos and one with American Girl dolls. Karen supervised a 3-day basketball program. We had lots of happy children – and parents!
