

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 7, 2014

*Background notes for Monday, March 10th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

POOL STUDY

Commission members are asked to bring their copies of the Pool Study to the meeting, to continue your conversation about the study.

The tentative plan is as follows:

- March 10 – continue discussion
- March 24 – continue discussion, putting consensus choices together
- April TBD* – hold a public meeting at Powers Hall to share consensus thoughts and get input
- April 28** - vote on option

* - the regular meeting date is April 14th, but since Passover starts at sundown, the meeting date will be changed

** - the meeting will be held prior to 7PM at a different location so that the Commission may attend the League of Women Voters' Warrant Meeting

AWARD

Rep. Denise Garlick will receive the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association's Legislator of the Year Award on March 13th, at our annual conference and awards breakfast. Karen, Nicole and I are all members of the MRPA and are proud to share the accomplishments of Rep. Garlick with our colleagues!

SPRING FIELDS

It will be very difficult to have athletic fields ready for use on April 1st. The below freezing temperatures are expected to continue for another week or so. Below the surface and layer of snow is frozen ground. In the ponds, we are seeing about 12 inches of ice, so we anticipate at least of foot of frozen ground that will need to thaw. No plowing of synthetic or natural grass fields will be done, as that is very damaging to those surfaces. All groups, including the High School, are being reminded to stay off all fields until given notice.

RAIL TRAIL

The MBTA has signed the lease agreement with the Town for use of the rail right-of-way from High Rock Street to the Charles River for a pedestrian path. The state has qualified the Town to receive 50% reimbursement for the 5 year insurance that is required as part of the lease. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will be the Town's project manager for the actual work to create the trail. Bay Colony Rail Trail Association has just about reached their initial fundraising goal of \$235,000 for Phase 1 and Phase 2, mostly through smaller donations plus \$70,000 of funding from the state, realized

through the efforts of Rep. Garlick. BCRTA is also pursuing additional funding for the proposed parking areas along the route, noted in the plan as Phase 3 and Phase 4. The hope is that work can begin by Labor Day.

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.

TREE AT CRICKET

NSTAR's subcontracted tree company removed a tree at Cricket Field, with the authorization of the Town's Tree Warden Ed Olsen. The tree and wires were touching, creating sparks. This is a safety issue.

NEEDHAM UNPLUGGED

March is the month of "Needham Unplugged" sponsored by Needham Youth Services, Needham Park and Recreation and the Charles River YMCA. Thursday, March 13th is "Needham Unplugged Night" – with the goal of there not being any homework or meetings that night!

IN MEMORY

Roy Nutile died a few weeks, ago. Roy created the *Roy Nutile Orchestra* to continue with his life-long love of music. When Park and Recreation, in the 1970's, decided to re-create the free outdoor summer band concerts...Arts in the Parks...Roy and his big band were the first to perform and they continued right up until recent years when his health didn't allow him to continue. He is certainly one of the reasons that Park and Recreation has had a successful summer concert series for so long! Roy's wife Eleanor always put her chair up in front of the gazebo, and never missed a concert. The Roy Nutile Orchestra performed on the Zakim Bridge during its opening ceremonies. Roy's son, Tom, and his band continue the tradition as the "opening act" at Arts in the Parks. Roy was a long time member of the Village Club and Exchange Club, and also served as a Town Meeting member for many years, often being appointed to serve as a teller to count the votes of Town Meeting members. Karen and I will work on some kind tribute to Roy with this summer's Arts in the Parks.
