

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 21, 2014

*Background notes for Monday, March 24th
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 current plan is as follows:

- March 24 – continue discussion, putting consensus choices together
- April 7* – hold a public meeting at Powers Hall to share consensus thoughts and get input
- April 22 – meet with Board of Selectmen to discuss consensus thoughts
- April 30** - vote on option

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

*** - the meeting has been moved so that the Commission may attend the League of Women Voters' Warrant Meeting on April 28th*

Weston & Sampson has updated some of the information, so the Public Facilities Department is in the process of uploading the new information onto the website and finding a way to notify those who downloaded the information, with notes on what has changed.

Since the report was published, Weston & Sampson has continued their review and the MA Department of Public Health has indicated how they would interpret bather loads in relation to the number of restrooms. So, Weston & Sampson has created two versions for Option 3, primarily related to bather load.

UPPER ROSEMARY LOT

The company making repairs to the tracks will temporarily stage their crushed stone in the upper parking lot at Rosemary. It will be for a limited time – March 31 to April 14, so there won't be a conflict with summer use.

RE-ORGANIZATION

At the conclusion of Monday's meeting, the Commission will hold their annual re-organization meeting, voting for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Retzky, for serving for two consecutive terms as Chairman. It has been extra busy time on the Commission, so I'm sure you'll enjoy returning to being a working member of the Commission!

RAIL TRAIL

The rail trail will be added to the list of properties for the Town-Wide clean-up event on Saturday, April 12th. On the same day, there will be a trail project on the Rosemary Lake trails, so it will be a very busy day throughout the Town!

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will be the Town's project manager for the rail trail project. Conservation Director Matt Varrell will provide guidance on the permitting that will be needed, as well as share his thoughts on the public-private project, as he is an active member of the successful Holliston Trails Committee.

TENNIS

The courts are still partially covered with snow, but Parks and Forestry is working this week on cleaning them up and re-installing the nets for the season. Tennis badges went on sale in early March, and sales are starting to increase as the promise of warmer weather gets nearer!

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Town Manager's Office is developing a new application for groups that wish to offer road races (bicycle, running or walking.) The number of events has dramatically increased in recent years, putting a particular burden on the Police Department who must provide details or support for many of the events. At the same time, the Town Manager's Office is trying to collaborate with Park and Recreation on the process of approving special events. Some events require approval from multiple departments/boards, so we'll try to work on a document that helps guide applicants through the process.

AVERY BASKETBALL COURT

A neighbor of Avery Field has asked about the possibility of a half basketball court being installed at Avery, with the suggestion that private fundraising could assist with the project. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will review the site to see if something could actually fit, within safety parameters of the diamond plus within the zoning by-laws. If something fits, the Commission would be provided a plan for review and approval.
