

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**March 21, 2008**

*Background notes for Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**FIELD SCHEDULING UPDATE**

The Spring/Summer field schedule has been mailed out, today. This is much later than usual, but there were delays in requests being submitted, starting with the High School requests being submitted almost one month late. There were still requests being submitted as late as this week!

Little League, Soccer Club and Girls Softball are working on trying to coordinate some temporary relocation of some 6 x 6 soccer fields onto diamonds to allow some limited time for Little League/Babe Ruth to use the # 7 diamond at DeFazio. That field is traditionally closed down in the spring as the outfield is within DeFazio # 4 and 5 multi-purpose fields.

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**FIELD STUDY UPDATE**

The Sports Council is in deliberations to hire a contractor for the work that will be done at Memorial Park and for the majority of the work at DeFazio, with the exception of the track and the inner field (unless they award their contract to the same firm.)

The Board of Selectmen will sign the license agreement with the Sports Council on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This document, already negotiated between the Town and the Sports Council, outlines the Town's requirements for the project.

As the fundraising has progressed successfully, the Sports Council is basically down to raising the funds for installation of athletic field lights. The Sports Council has asked the Town to begin the process of applying for special permits for the installation of athletic field lights. If all necessary documents are ready by March 26 for submission, the Zoning Board of Appeals will open the hearings for both parks on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The application will include a copy of the draft policy for use of athletic field lights, jointly created by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Memorial Park Trustees, and supported by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee.

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**TOWN HALL UPDATE**

As a reminder, there are 3 upcoming events related to the renovation of Town Hall and the construction of a new administration building at DPW. Under the current plan, the Park and Recreation Offices will be moved to the new building at DPW.

Tour of Town Hall:                      Wednesday, April 9 from 5-7 PM @ Town Hall

Town Hall Public Meeting: Wednesday, April 9 at 7 PM @ Town Hall  
Tour of DPW: Saturday, April 12 from 9-11 AM @ DPW

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### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION**

As a reminder, the CPC will hold its public hearing on project proposals on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 PM in the Pollard Auditorium.

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### **DONATIONS**

This past Tuesday, Assistant Director Karen Peirce attended a reception sponsored by the Needham Cultural Council to honor the recipients of grants awarded by the Council. The Cultural Council has been an important sponsor of the Arts and the Parks program for many years! On Wednesday, I attended a meeting of the Needham Exchange Club to receive a generous donation for Arts in the Parks. They are sponsoring the August 14<sup>th</sup> concert featuring "The Reminisants." Arts in the Parks will be held on the Town Common during the Summer of 2008 due to the construction work at Memorial Park. Parent Talk has provided sponsorship for all 4 Children's Theatre performances, and the funds needed to pay for the Arts in the Parks concerts are just about collected. All sponsors will be noted in the Summer Brochure as well as information provided on the program.

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### **SPRING PROJECTS**

At Rosemary Pool, the Town's plumber has finalized the needs for renovating the handicap bathrooms, and updates will be done when the water is turned on for the season. The Town's plumber will also assist me with the scope of work needed to completely renovate the Mills bathrooms, work that will be done by a private contractor.

The DPW has reviewed the gate on the dam at Rosemary Lake with a specialist, and when the lake is drained, some improvements will be made to the gate that will allow it to hold water in the lake more efficiently. The current gate has a small leak that allows water to pass by the gate, and if not closed correctly, creates a much larger water flow.

Because the paint used on the pool walls is no longer manufactured, the interior walls of the pool have to be sandblasted to accept new paint. Specifications are being sent to me, and the walls will be sandblasted and painted during the drain-down.

During the drain-down, the DPW will replace the pipes along the exterior of the pool up to the filter room. They will then do an overlay of asphalt on the areas within the complex to cover patches and freshen the look of the asphalt walkways. The building was painted last fall, and the filter room door will be replaced this spring.