

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 19, 2014

*Background notes for Monday, September 22nd
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Due to Columbus Day and Special Town Meeting, the Commission has changed its October meeting dates to Monday, October 6 and Monday, October 20. Both meetings will start at 7 PM and will be held in the Charles River Room at PSAB.

FACILITIES STUDY

While the consultants, HKT, continue to work on financial estimates and schedules, the boards with jurisdiction over properties will need to start working together on decisions on use of land. HKT and the Town Manager will present information to boards on the status of the study on Wednesday, October 22 at 7 PM in Powers Hall at Town Hall.

OFFICE UPDATE

From the 21 applicants for the Recreation Supervisor position, I have interviewed 9 with assistance from DPW Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen. Next week, we will be joined by Shrewsbury's Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery to do second interviews with 4 of the candidates.

CHAMBER'S COVE

The Commission has met with former NHS hockey players Tom Smith and Tom Parlato to informally discuss their desire to name a portion of Rosemary Lake as "Chamber's Cove", to honor long-time NHS hockey coach John Chambers, who also created the Needham Park and Recreation youth hockey program, now known as Needham Youth Hockey. Invitations for comment have been sent through the School Department and in the Needham Times. Comments can be given at the Commission's meeting on Monday night, or be sent in writing or by e-mail.

AWARD

Last spring, I nominated Rep. Denise Garlick for the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association's Legislator of the Year Award. She was chosen to receive the award from several nominations and I was fortunate to be able to present it to her at the MRPA's annual award breakfast. On September 23rd, I will re-present the award to Rep. Garlick at the Board of Selectmen's meeting, so that others in Needham can hear about the support and accomplishments related to recreation and wellness in Needham, Dover and Medfield.

MILLS DUGOUTS

Pool Maintenance staff Cam Chisholm and Matt Lynch have some time before starting their jobs this fall, so they have started painting the dugouts and concession building at Mills.

BUDGET PRO FORMA

The Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager-Finance have produced the budget pro forma for the upcoming 5 years. It is included in the Commission meeting packets and will be posted, shortly, on the Town's website.

FACEBOOK

Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright has been working on the official launching of the department's Facebook page. She has been doing extra postings to the Notify Me Recreation Information e-mail listing to show what the department is offering, and encouraging people to "like" the Facebook page for additional information.

NEW TRAILS

Progress is being made on the addition of two new trail systems in Needham. The "rail trail" will extend from the Needham Town Forest at High Rock Street to the Charles River. The design work is underway, so that an RFP for construction can be sent out over the winter and construction begin in the spring. Bay Colony Rail Trail Association has been a great partner, raising funds for the project, and reaching out to abutters. I will be touring a rail trail in Holliston with others on our staff working group, so we can view what has worked and what still needs to be added on a working trail. The second new trail will be on the MWRA Sudbury Aqueduct. The amount of "construction" will primarily be related to road crossings and signage. The trail is in two parts, starting at the Charles River at the border of Newton, following through to the Wellesley line near Hunnewell Street and then returning to Needham through Babson and Olin Colleges.
