

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 6, 2015

*Background notes for Monday, February 9th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

JANUARY 26th MEETING

Due to weather conditions, the Park and Recreation Commission's meeting was cancelled on Monday, January 26th. All agenda items have been carried over to the Monday, February 9th agenda. As this is written, another large storm appears to be heading in this direction, impacting Monday.

SPECIAL EVENTS LIGHT WAIVER

The Needham Soccer Club is requesting an additional one hour for use of lights for the Friday night of their Memorial Day Weekend tournament. From the joint policy on lights, the following is allowed: *The time limits for special events may be waived by a supermajority vote of the Park and Recreation Commission or the Memorial Park Trustees and approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Park and Recreation Commission or Memorial Park Trustees will first allow discussions at two meetings or special meeting agendas prior to voting their final decision. Affirmative vote of the board will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval at their next meeting.* A super majority of the Commission is 4 out of 5 members. The request will be on the 1/26 meeting for discussion. It will be placed on the 2/23 agenda as an action item for discussion and a vote on whether to approve or not.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECTS

The tentative date for the CPC's public hearing on projects is Wednesday, March 11th. Park and Recreation related proposals include: Rosemary Pool design funds, construction funds for Newman fields and the Eastman conservation trail, design funds for renovating the canoe launch area on South Street, construction funds for parking improvements and other projects at Mills Field, and some funds to assist with the building of the rail trail. At the public hearing, it is important for residents to come to ask questions and share comments, and for proponents to share their reasons for supporting projects. The CPC has two meetings scheduled in February for gathering information on each proposal. The Selectmen will give their input on the proposals at their February 10th meeting, and in late February or early March, the Finance Committee will give their input. The CPC anticipates voting on the proposals in March. The proposals they recommend for funding will then be on the May Annual Town Meeting warrant, as Town Meeting must give final approval for the funding.

RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen is creating a seven member advisory committee for the rail trail. Their hope is to appointment a member of the Park and Recreation Commission to this board, two residents who are members of the Bay Colony Rail Trail Association, as well as at least one abutter. The Parks and Forestry Superintendent/or designee and the

Director of Park and Recreation/or designee are ex officio, non-voting members. Residents with interest should contact the Town Manager's Office at Town Hall or e-mail the office at otm@needhamma.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CONCUSSION REGULATIONS

The Board of Health will host a public hearing on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 PM in Powers Hall. They have drafted a regulation related to prevention, education, and training related to youth sports and concussions. Park and Recreation has sent the information to youth league officials who receive field permits, the e-mail listing for Field Status, and Needham Youth Hockey, which doesn't currently permit space from the Town. It has also been forwarded to the youth basketball programs who provide contact information to the department. The Health Department has sent the information out to their contacts, too, so some programs are getting the hearing information more than once.
