

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 6, 2015

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Park and Recreation Commission will go into Executive Session at the conclusion of their regular meeting on March 6, under Exception 6. This link is to the state's Open Meeting Law, which includes the rules for moving into Executive Session. <http://www.mass.gov/ago/government-resources/open-meeting-law/attorney-generals-open-meeting-law-guide.html#Executive>

Sample text for adjournment of the meeting: "I move that the Park and Recreation Commission move into Executive Session under Exception 6 – to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and not to return to regular session at the conclusion of the Executive Session." The motion is then seconded, and the Chairman takes a roll call vote before declaring the regular meeting closed.

DeFAZIO PARKING LOT

The RTS is the primary snow dump for the Town, but when it doesn't have enough capacity, the DeFazio parking lot is the secondary site. Not unexpectedly, the volume of snow required the use of the DeFazio lot. The DPW continues to work non-stop to clear storm drains, dig out fire hydrants, fix pot holes, cut down high banks at intersections, and other safety tasks, but this week, they also began the process of partially removing snow from the parking lot. The first step was to create additional space for the snow at the RTS. The snow in the parking areas closest to the fields is being moved to the RTS, which is a slow process due to the volume of snow. The Town of Natick will be assisting us over the weekend with their snow melting machine so that additional volume can be reduced. There will still be snow remaining in the lot, but the ability to park will be dramatically increased.

SNOW AT THE PARKS

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I have been informally discussing important information that needs to get out to residents, including sports organizations, about the current field conditions and next steps. As this is written, the document is still being put together, but we will get it out as quickly as possible. The important aspect of the document will be reviewing the short-term fixes that are being requested, but explaining how they impact the long-term safety, whether it is an athletic field, playground site or tennis courts. When the document is ready, we will get it out through as many resources as possible.

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COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECTS

The CPC will host a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen's Chambers at Town Hall. They will receive comments and questions on eight projects, all related to recreation and leisure in Needham.

Special thanks to Jo-Anne Ochalla from Community Center of Needham. She attended a recent Commonwealth Conservation event sponsored by the Senate in hopes of speaking in support of continued funding for CPA communities.
